

Literature Circles and Summer Reading 2009

The goal for our summer reading program is to create a community of readers. As part of their summer reading assignment, students must read one of the books from the "Literature for Discussion" List. Adults in the building will all choose at least one of these books to read as well. In the first few weeks of school, we will regroup during seminar time by book for small group discussions. This is a model the 9th grade team piloted during the 2008-2009 school year. Our ultimate vision is for seniors to lead discussion groups allowing for more choices and leadership opportunities. The books on the list present with a wide variety of reading levels and areas of interest.

Please note that the BAA/Fenway Library will be open this summer on most days from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Library will be closed August 2 – 12, 2009

Literature for Discussion List

All members of the BAA community must read at least one of these books this summer.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. **Half a Yellow Sun**-When the Igbo people of eastern Nigeria seceded in 1967 to form the independent nation of Biafra, a bloody, crippling three-year civil war followed. That period in African history is captured with haunting intimacy in this artful page-turner from Nigerian novelist Adichie (Purple Hibiscus). Adichie tells her profoundly gripping story primarily through the eyes and lives of Ugwu, a 13-year-old peasant houseboy who survives conscription into the raggedy Biafran army, and twin sisters Olanna and Kainene, who are from a wealthy and well-connected family. This dramatic, intelligent epic has its lush and sultry side as well: rebellious Olanna falls in love with Odenigbo, a university professor brimming with anticolonial zeal; business-minded Kainene has a relationship with blue-eyed Richard, a British expatriate come to Nigeria to write a book about Igbo-Ukwu art. This is a transcendent novel of many descriptive triumphs, most notably its depiction of the impact of war's brutalities on peasants and intellectuals alike. It's a searing history lesson in fictional form, intensely evocative and immensely absorbing.

Alexie, Sherman. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**- Exploring Indian identity, both self and tribal, Alexie's first young adult novel is a semiautobiographical chronicle of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw. He says, "I think the world is a series of broken dams and floods, and my cartoons are tiny little lifeboats." He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. Meeting his old classmates on the court, Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one's community,

identity, and tribe. Forney's simple pencil cartoons fit perfectly within the story and reflect the burgeoning artist within Junior. The teen's determination to both improve himself and overcome poverty, despite the handicaps of birth, circumstances, and race, delivers a positive message in a low-key manner.

* Beah, Ishmael. **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.** In a heart-wrenching, candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

* Childress, Alice. **A Short Walk-** Famed dramatist and author Alice Childress portrays her protagonist's "short walk" through life. During the early half of the twentieth century, Cora James experiences political movements, the easy life of dealing poker in a Harlem card parlor, and the more grueling demands of the vaudeville circuit. She emerges as the woman of stature she always vowed to become.

Davis, Sampson, Jenkins, George, and Hunt, Rameck. **The Pact-** The true story of three African-American kids from the inner city of Newark, New Jersey, who made a pact to support each other as they rose from an environment of poverty, crime, and drugs, and went on to become successful doctors. As teenagers from a rough part of Newark, New Jersey, Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins had nothing special going for them except loving mothers (one of whom was a drug user) and above-average intelligence. Their first stroke of luck was testing into University High, one of Newark's three magnet high schools, and their second was finding each other. They were busy staying out of trouble (most of the time), and discovering the usual ways to skip class and do as little schoolwork as possible, when a recruitment presentation on Seton Hall University reignited George's childhood dream of becoming a dentist. George convinced his two friends to go to college with him. They help each other from dropping out and be reabsorbed by the Newark streets.

Diaz, Junot. **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao-** The titular Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through the book, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake. This was the most dynamic, entertaining, and achingly heartfelt novel I've read in a long time. My head is still buzzing with the memory of dozens of killer passages that I dog-eared throughout the book. The rope-a-dope narrative is funny, hip, tragic, soulful, and bursting with desire. Make some room for Oscar Wao on your bookshelf--you won't be disappointed.

Haddon, Mark. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time-** Christopher Boone, the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red-but not yellow or brown-foods and screams when he is touched. Strange as he may seem, other people are far more of a conundrum to him, for he lacks the intuitive "theory of mind" by which most of us sense what's going on in other people's heads. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer. In the hands of first-time novelist Haddon, Christopher is a fascinating case study and, above all, a sympathetic boy: not closed off, as the stereotype would have it, but too open-overwhelmed by sensations, bereft of the filters through which normal people screen their surroundings. His literal-minded observations make for a kind of poetic sensibility and a poignant evocation of character. Though Christopher insists, "This will not be a funny book. I cannot tell jokes because I do not understand them," the novel brims with touching, ironic humor.

Kean, Thomas H. and Hamilton, Lee H. **The 9/11 report** : a graphic adaptation / by Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colón. A graphic novel format, the report of the 9/11 Commission reveals the Commission's findings regarding the terrorist attacks on the United States and its recommendations concerning what the United States government needs to do in its wake.

Helfer, Andrew and DuBurke, Randy. **Malcolm X: Graphic Biography**- A graphic novel that shows Malcolm Little's transformation from a black youth beaten down by Jim Crow America into Malcolm X, the charismatic, controversial, and doomed national spokesman for the Nation of Islam. Helfer and DuBurke tell the story of Malcolm X's short life—his meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the two leaders describing the opposite ideological ends of the fight for civil rights; and his eventual assassination by other members of the Nation of Islam (NOI)—in narration and detailed b&white drawings, sharp as photographs in a newspaper. The portrait is frank and at times unflattering, pointing out the inconsistencies in Malcolm X's own autobiography. From his slow slide into the criminal—moving from hustler to dealer to the head of a ring of thieves for which he was finally sent to prison—to his jailhouse conversion to Islam, Helfer and DuBurke don't shy from any part of their subject's life.

Jones, Lloyd. **Mister Pip**- When the conflict between the natives and the invading redskin soldiers erupts on an unnamed tropical island in the early 1990s, 13-year-old Matilda Laimo and her mother, Dolores, are unified with the rest of their village in their efforts for survival. Amid the chaos, Mr. Watts, the only white local (he is married to a native), offers to fill in as the children's schoolteacher and teaches from Dickens's *Great Expectations*. The precocious Matilda, who forms a strong attachment to the novel's hero, Pip, uses the teachings as escapism, which rankles Dolores, who considers her daughter's fixation blasphemous. With a mixture of thrill and unease, Matilda discovers independent thought, and Jones captures the intricate, emotionally loaded evolution of the mother-daughter relationship.

* Myers, Walter Dean. **The Greatest: Muhammad Ali**—An introduction to Ali's life from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him. Both his talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him international fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s and his membership in the Nation of Islam brought him notoriety. This illustrated biography of boxing great Muhammad Ali addresses his politics, his fight against Parkinson's disease, and boxing's dangers.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Sunrise over Fallujah**- Robin's parents aspire for him to go to college, but following September 11, he feels compelled to join the Army instead. By early 2003, Robin has completed Basic Training and is deployed to Iraq where he becomes part of a Civil Affairs Unit charged with building the trust of the Iraqi people to minimize fighting. Civil Affairs soldiers are often put into deadly situations to test the waters, and Robin finds that the people in his unit, who nickname him "Birdy," are the only ones he can trust. Robin quickly learns that the situation in Iraq will not be resolved easily and that much of what is happening there will never make the news. Facing the horrors of war, Robin tries to remain hopeful and comforting in his letters to his family, never showing his fear or the danger he actually faces. The story of teenagers going to war today is an important one, and it is not told often enough. Myers writes an important book to have in any collection to recognize that many teens will choose to join the military instead of, or before, going on to college. Robin is only eighteen, and it is difficult to watch his innocence erased as war leaves its mark on him, but it is the reality for many young men and women.

Peters, Julie Anne. **Luna**. Liam is technically born a boy but has always felt like a girl inside. He spurs his metamorphosis forward by calling himself Lia Marie or Luna and exploring feminine clothes. With the help of his sister, Liam secretly transforms himself into a girl when evening falls. Although he wants to present his female persona to the world, he fears the reaction of the rest of his family. And

Luna isn't even the main character of the book. It's Luna's sister Reagan, with the boyish name, who tells the story as she squirms and tries to protect her brother. While Liam/Luna is marked by movement and mimicking of feminine body language, Reagan is comparatively immobile. She is indecisive and sometimes despises her sibling. She is the "every teen" while Liam and Luna are both larger than life.

Riverbend. **Baghdad Burning II - More Girl Blog from Iraq.** The distinctive voice of pseudonymous Riverbend shines through this continuation of her blog, from October 2004 through March 2006. Now 27, she offers an invaluable description of life in a middle-class, secular, mixed Shia-Sunni family. Alternating reports of attacks seen on TV and raids in her neighborhood with the mundane details of fuel shortages and infrequent electricity and water, Riverbend also offers astute analysis of the Iraqi draft constitution and American media, widely available through Iraqi TV and the Internet. She emphasizes how gender has become an issue when it never was before, e.g., election forms are all stamped "male." Riverbend's dry wit leavens her anger and the blog insists that most Iraqis are tolerant; prefer secular to religious government; fear civil war; and desire an end to occupation.

Strasser, Todd. **Can't Get There from Here.** Her street name is Maybe. She lives with a tribe of homeless teens - runaways and throwaways, kids who have no place to go other than cold city streets, and no family except for one another. She does her best with her harsh surroundings, but with the frigid winds of January, and anew girl: Tears, maybe decides that she has to help this girl get off the streets and, in doing so, helps herself find a way out, as well. whose mother doesn't believe Tear's stepfather abuses her. other kids start to disappear, Maybe tries to help Tears get off the streets.

Woodson, Jaqueline. **After Tupac and D Foster-** "The summer before D Foster's real mama came and took her away, Tupac wasn't dead yet." From this first line in her quiet, powerful novel, Woodson cycles backward through the events that lead to dual tragedies: a friend's departure and a hero's death. In a close-knit African American neighborhood in Queens, New York, the unnamed narrator lives across from her best friend, Neeka. Then D Foster wanders onto the block, and the three 11-year-old girls quickly become inseparable. Beautifully capturing the girls' passage from childhood to adolescence, this is a memorable, affecting novel about the sustaining power of love and friendship and each girl's developing faith in her own "Big Purpose."

Woodson, Jaqueline. **Locomotion-** The kinetic energy of the aptly named Locomotion (the nickname of Lonnie Collins Motion) permeates the 60 poems that tell his sad yet hopeful story. Lonnie's first poem sets up a conflict familiar to anyone who has attempted creativity: despite the cheering of his teacher, Ms. Marcus ("Write it down before it leaves your brain," she says), as he begins to write, Lonnie hears the critical voice of his foster mother. As Lonnie explores poetry's various forms throughout this brief yet poignant and occasionally humorous volume, he also reveals Miss Edna's kindness toward him in the little things she says and does through using the genre as a cathartic means for expressing the young poet's own grief.

Incoming Freshmen

The theme for incoming Freshmen is DISCOVERIES.

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature for Discussion list.

SECOND BOOK: Read a second book of your choice from the list below or a book by an authors in this booklet.

OPEN HONORS: Read an additional two books of your choice from any of the lists in this booklet.

PRODUCT DUE SEPT 14, 2009

Write one essay (2-3pages, typed, double-spaced) that uses examples from **all** books answering these questions: What discoveries do the characters in these two books make? What discoveries about yourself have you made while reading these books? In other words, what thoughts or feelings do you "discover" yourself having as you read these two/four books? (Discoveries about yourself can include thoughts or feelings you have while reading, connections between you and the characters or events in the books, observations you make about your reading habits, likes/dislikes, etc.)

Rising Sophomores

The theme for rising Sophomores is JOURNEYS

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature for Discussion list.

SECOND BOOK: Read a second book of your choice from the list below or a book by an authors in this booklet.

OPEN HONORS: Read an additional two books from any of the lists in this booklet for Open Honors credit.

PRODUCTS DUE SEPT 14, 2009

- Write **one** essay (2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced) addressing the theme of JOURNEYS in **all** of the books. Answer these questions: What journeys (to new places or through challenges) do the characters in these two/four books undertake? How can you connect

- your own personal journeys to those of the characters in these two/four books?
- Choose one character from one of the books and create an identity box for that character.

Rising Juniors

The theme for rising juniors is AWAKENINGS

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature for Discussion list.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS: Read an additional two books of your choice from the list below or a books by authors in this booklet.

OPEN HONORS: Read an additional two books from any of the lists in this booklet for Open Honors credit.

PRODUCTS DUE SEPT 14, 2009

- Write **one** essay (3 pages, typed, double-spaced) addressing the theme of AWAKENINGS in all of the books. Answer these questions: What are the characters in these two/four books awakening to? What awakenings are taking place for you as you read?
- Choose one character from one of the books and create an "I AM" poem for that character.

Rising Seniors

The theme for rising seniors is EPIPHANIES

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature for Discussion list.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS: Read an additional three books from the list below or books by any author in this booklet.

OPEN HONORS: Read an additional two books from the list below or books by any author in this booklet.

PRODUCT DUE SEPT 14, 2009

Write **one** essay (5 pages, typed, double-spaced) addressing the theme of EPIPHANIES in all of the books. Answer these questions: What is an

epiphany? What epiphanies do the characters in your books have? What epiphanies are you having as you enter your final year of high school?

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Incoming Freshmen

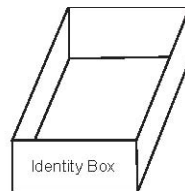
1 Essay, 2 pages long

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2
Your Name Teachers Date		

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Rising Sophomores

1 Essay, 2 pages long and 1 Identity Box

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2
Your Name Teachers Date		



Summer Writing Visual Aid: Rising Juniors

1 Essay, 3 pages long and 1 "I AM" Poem

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2	Page 3
Your Name Teachers Date			

"I AM" Poem

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Rising Seniors

1 Essay, 5 pages long

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2	Page 3	Page 4	Page 5
Your Name Teachers Date					

Fiction

*Abouet, Maruerite and Clement Oubrierie. **Aya de Youpogon**. The perennial themes of adolescent friendship, careless romance, and family expectations are made vivid in this graphic novel, set nearly 30 years ago on the Ivory Coast.

*Allende, Isabelle. **Zorro** Diego de la Vega, the son of an aristocratic, Spanish landowner and a Shoshone mother, returns to California from school in Spain to reclaim the his family's hacienda and to seek justice for the helpless. Espionage, pirates and romance make this a great tale. Any others by this author.

*Allison, Dorothy. **Bastard Out of Carolina** A girl comes of age in '50's South Carolina fighting the label "trash" and the violent advances of her stepfather: an overly familiar story as Allison handles the material in a surprisingly nostalgic way.

*Alvarez, Julia. **In the Time of Butterflies** - A true story drawn from the history of Alvarez's native Dominican Republic, about the Mirabel sisters, who, along with their husbands, were instrumental in the formation of an underground resistance movement against the dictatorship of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo. Any others by this author.

*Anderson, Ho Che. **King** A groundbreaking graphic novel about Martin Luther King records all of the key events of the civil rights leader's life in this unique and compelling format, from the violence of the Southern police to the internal struggles that marked the birth of the civil rights movement in America.

* Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Chains**. When her former owner breaks his promise to set her free and ends up sending her to live with a cruel loyalist family at the start of the Revolutionary War, Isabel is heartbroken and so becomes determined to do whatever is necessary to win her freedom, including spying on her family to help the rebels win the war. Any others by this author.

* Baldwin, James. **If Beale Street Could Talk** Fonny, a talented young artist, finds himself unjustly arrested and locked in New York's infamous Tombs. But his girlfriend, Tish, is determined to free him, and to have his baby, in this starkly realistic tale... a powerful indictment of American concepts of justice and punishment in our time.

* Bat-Ami, Miriam. **Two Suns in the Sky** In 1944, an Upstate New York teenager named Christine meets and falls in love with Adam, a Yugoslavian Jew living in a refugee camp, despite their parents' conviction that they do not belong together.

Begag, Azouz. **Gone du Chaâba. English Shantytown kid** translated by Naïma Wolf and Alec G. Hargreaves. Begag narrates the story of his childhood in Le Chaaba, a shantytown suburb of Lyon in which poverty and poor sanitation exacerbate tensions between immigrants and nonimmigrants, as well as between Arab families. A talented student, young Begag learns quickly and speaks French well, which facilitates a relationship with a *pied-noir* teacher, who introduces him to Algeria and the Arabic language in a way Begag's parents cannot.

* Chevalier, Tracy. **Burning Bright** This book focuses on the children of a rural English family that moves to London after the death of a beloved son. Jem, 15, and Maisie 12, lose some of the innocence by getting involved in the circus that is based near their home. With a young Londoner, Maggie, the children become involved in the life of their neighbor William Blake as his completing his most famous works, "Songs of Innocence" and "Songs of Experience." Any others by this author.

* Chopin, Kate. **The Awakening** Who is Edna? What does she want? She wants to experience life to the

fullest, without constraint. She wants personal freedom, without the need to conform to the social mores of her day. However, she does not want to harm her children while seeking her own personal fulfillment.

* Coelho, Paulo. **The Alchemist** Santiago, a Spanish shepherd boy, travels in search of worldly treasure. His journey to find wealth turns into a meditation on the treasures found within.

* Cofer, Judith Ortiz. **An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio** Twelve stories about young people caught between their Puerto Rican heritage and their American surroundings.

* Crutcher, Chris. **Deadline**. 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, "Hey-Soos." Any others by this author.

* Draper, Sharon M. **Fire from the rock**. In 1957, Sylvia Patterson's life--that of a normal African American teenager--is disrupted by the impending integration of Little Rock's Central High when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school.

* Ellison, Ralph. **The Invisible Man** The Invisible Man chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the hellish levels of American intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he exists in a very peculiar state.

* Erdrich, Louise. **The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse** Deals with miracles, crises of faith, struggles with good and evil, and the corrosive and redemptive power of secrecy. Any others by this author.

* Evaristo, Bernadine. **Blonde Roots**. In an alternate world in which Africans enslaved Europeans, Doris, an Englishwoman, is captured and taken to the New World, where the hardships she endures as a slave are offset by dreams of escape and home.

* Flake, Sharon. **Bang!** A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of inner city life, a disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

* Flynn, Michael. **In the Country of the Blind** A small group of American idealists have managed to build the Analytical Engine designed by Charles Babbage and use it to develop mathematical models that could chart the likely course of the future.

* Frost, Helen. **Keesha's House** Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

* Gaiman, Neal. **Graveyard Book**. Raised since he was a baby by ghosts, werewolves, and other residents of the cemetery in which he has always resided, Bod wonders how he will manage to survive amongst the living with only the lessons he has learned from the dead.

* Gaines, Ernest. **A Lesson Before Dying** This novel tells the story of a young African-American man sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit and of a teacher who tries to impart his learning and pride before the execution.

Gallo, Don, Editor. **First Crossings: Stories about Teen Immigrants** Mexican, Venezuelan, Kazakh, Chinese, Romanian, Palestinian, Swedish, Korean, Haitian, and Cambodian immigrants reveal what it is like to face prejudice, language barriers, and homesickness along with common teenage feelings and needs.

* **Greer, Andrew Sean. *The Story of a Marriage***. World War II shapes and complicates a young married couple's shared and separate lives. What narrator Pearlie Cook says of her introverted spouse Holland ("We think we know the ones we love.") applies also to herself. We learn early on that she met shy, handsome neighbor Holland Cook in grade school. Pearlie marries the returning wounded Holland, devoting herself to creating a peaceful, loving environment and having a son (who would be stricken with poliomyelitis). Her family's story becomes entangled with that of "Buzz" Drumer, Holland's hospital roommate, whose disclosures overturn everything Pearlie thought she knew.

* **Grimes, Nikki *Dark Sons*** Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers.

* **Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*** "A Thousand Splendid Suns", is about two women, Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family. They are brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul-they come to form a bond that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation.

* **Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes were Watching God*** An amazing heartfelt novel about a young black women attempting to find her herself growing up in the Deep South. This novel follows the life of Janie from a young girl to an elderly woman as she follows path after path down a journey of self-discovery.

* **Hurwin, Davida Wills. *A Time for Dancing*** Juliana and Samantha have been inseparable since dancing-school days at age nine. They perform in a ballet company when not carrying on their ebulliently normal high-school lives. Then Julie is diagnosed with lymphoma, and normal becomes a thing of the past.

* **Johnston, Tony. *Bone by Bone by Bone***. In 1950s Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy.

* **Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** An insane asylum is turned upside down when a new patient challenges the head nurse's standards of sanity and justice.

* **Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*** After her "stand-in mother," a bold, black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three bee-keeping sisters. **Any others by this author.**

* **Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Poisonwood Bible*** In 1959, Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist, takes his four young daughters, his wife, and his mission to the Belgian Congo -- a place, he is sure, where he can save needy souls. But the seeds they plant bloom in tragic ways. Set against one of the most dramatic political events of the twentieth century -- the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium and its devastating consequences. A beautiful, heartbreaking, and unforgettable epic that chronicles the disintegration of a family and a nation. **Any others by this author.**

* **Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Unaccustomed Earth: Short Stories*** The title story, dramatizes the divide between immigrant parents and their American-raised children, and is the first of several scathing inquiries into the lack of deep-down understanding and trust in a marriage between a Bengali and non-Bengali. An inspired miniaturist, Lahiri creates a lexicon of loaded images.

The NamesakeA young man born of Indian parents in America struggles with issues of identity from his teens to his thirties.

* **Lee, Marie G. *Finding My Voice*** As she tries to enjoy her senior year and choose which college she

will attend, Korean American Ellen Sung must deal with the prejudice of classmates and pressure from her parents to get good grades. Any others by this author.

* Levenkron, Steven. **Best Little Girl in the World** Anorexia nervosa. Is it possible to ever overcome such a disease Based of real life patients, the mind-boggling book, reveals the unexpected crooks of the character's traumas through anorexia nervosa.

* Lipsyte, Robert. **The Contender** A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang into a boxing gym. He learns being a contender is hard and often discouraging work that can lead to deeper self-knowledge. Any others by this author.

* Marquez, Gabriel G. **One Hundred Years of Solitude** One Hundred Years of Solitude is an enchanting and engaging read that chronicles the lives of the Buendia family. The lively and eccentric characters like Jose Arcadio Buendia, the patriarch of the family, whose pursuits include getting a daguerreotype of God will make you laugh and make you think. Any others by this author.

* Marshall, Paule. **Brown Girl, Brownstones** Somewhat autobiographical, this groundbreaking work describes the coming of age of Selina Boyce, a Caribbean-American girl in New York City in the mid-20th century.

*McCann, Colum. **Zoli** As fascism spreads across 1930s Europe, Zoli Novotna, a young Gypsy poet, and her grandfather seek refuge with a clan of Romani harpists, where her fame as a poet leads to a flight to the West as she struggles to find where she truly belongs.

* McCormick, Patricia. **Sold**. When she is tricked by her stepfather and sold into prostitution, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi becomes submerged in a nightmare where her only comfort is the friendship she forms, which helps her eventually escape. **Any others by this author.**

*Mehran, Marsha. **Pomegranate Soup** Three Iranian sisters--Marjan, Layla, and Bahar Aminpour--flee the turmoil of the Islamic Revolution in their native country to seek refuge in Ireland, where they open the exotic Babylon Café.

* Mohr, Nicholasa. **El Bronx Remembered** A marvel, a glorious collection of stories you will not forget. Brilliant ... tender ... if any author could make you hear pulses beating from the pages, Nicholasa Mohr is the one>

* Morrison, Tony. **The Bluest Eye**. An eleven-year-old African-American girl in Ohio, in the early 1940s, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful. Any others by this author.

* Mukherjee, Bharati. **Jasmine** The story of how a young Indian girl becomes an American is intriguing. The evolution of Jyoti into Jasmine into Jane is gripping. The reader is led through the tragedies of her early life. Her resolve is extraordinary. She has to overcome the murder of her husband, terrorism in her homeland, a rape and many other hardships along the way.

* Munoz, Manuel. **The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue** A collection of interconnected short stories chronicles the world of the inhabitants of one Mexican-American neighborhood, whose diverse lives continue to cross paths in unexpected ways.

* Myers, Walter Dean. **Harlem Summer** In 1920s Harlem, sixteen-year-old Mark Purvis, an aspiring jazz saxophonist, works as an errand boy for the publishers of the groundbreaking African American magazine, "The Crisis," but soon finds himself on the enemy list of mobster Dutch Shultz. **Dope Sick**.

Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, seventeen-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a weird man who shows different turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices.

* Na, An. **A Step From Heaven** In a series of simple but powerful vignettes, An Na manages to distill the entire early life journey of one little girl, Young Ju, as she moves from toddler-hood through to young adulthood in a strange country with odd customs, strange people, and a different language.

* Naidoo, Beverly. **The Other Side of Truth** Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria. Any others by this author.

* O'Brien, Tim. **The Things They Carried** In 1979, Tim O'Brien's is a novel about the Vietnam War—won the National Book Award. O'Brien's unique artistic vision is again clearly demonstrated.

* Ondaatje, Michael. **Anil's Ghost** The protagonist, Anil Tissera, a native Sri Lankan, left her homeland at 18 and returns to it 15 years later only as part of an international human rights fact-finding mission. In the intervening years she has become a forensic anthropologist—a career that has landed her in the killing fields of Central America, digging up the victims of Guatemala's dirty war. Now she's come to Sri Lanka on a similar quest.

* Park, Frances. **To Swim Across the World** Two young Koreans—a young man from a poor family in the rural South, and the daughter of a prominent minister in the North—encounter one another during the 1941 Japanese occupation of Korea in a meeting that transforms both their lives.

* Patchet, Ann. **Run**. Struggling with single parenthood and a scandal that cost him his political career, Bernard Doyle fights his disappointment with his adopted sons' career choices before a violent event forces the members of his family to reconsider their priorities.

* Peet, Mal. **Tamar**. In England in 1995, fifteen-year-old Tamar, grief-stricken by the death of her grandfather, slowly begins to uncover the secrets of his life in the Dutch resistance and the climactic events that forever cast a shadow on his life and that of his family.

* Picoult, Jodi. **My Sister's Keeper**. Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate questions her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and fights for the right to make decisions about her own body. A page turner!

19 Minutes. In the aftermath of a small-town school shooting, lawyer Jordan McAfee finds himself defending a youth who desperately needs someone on his side, while detective Patrick Ducharme works with a primary witness of the daughter of the judge assigned to the case. Any others by this author.

* Quiñonez, Ernesto. **Chango's fire** Raised in pre-gentrification Spanish Harlem, Julio struggles to break free of his secret life as an arsonist, while Pastor Maritza sells illegal U.S. citizenships to undocumented immigrants.

* Romano, Tony. **If You Eat, You Never Die**. A collection of short stories centers around the Comingos, members of a first generation Italian-American family living in a small neighborhood outside of 1950s Chicago, interweaving the dreams, aspirations, and experiences of Italian immigrants Fabio and Lucia Comingo and their sons, Michelino and Giacomo.

* Roy, Arundhati. **The God of Small Things** A story of forbidden identities, *God of Small Things* tells a bittersweet tale of two fraternal twins: Etha and Rahel. Through the clear eyes of these children with

vague sense of themselves, Roy captures an India finally free from Britain's rule.

* Rubio, Gwyn Hyman. **Icy Sparks** Icy Sparks has spent most of her life being ridiculed because she suffers from Tourette Syndrome, but as she grows older, she teaches the people in her town how to accept people for who they are, not what they appear to be.

* Salinger, J.D. **The Catcher in the Rye** Holden is an extraordinary character. His absolute terror of leaving the wonderful, innocent, carefree world of youth is something everyone can relate to. Any others by this author.

* Sani, Rajaa **Girls of Riyadh** The tale of four young women university students from Riyadh follows their struggles to navigate the precarious paths between desire, fulfillment, and Islamic tradition while witnessing how the Arab world is being changed by new economic and political realities.

* Sebald, Alice. **The Lovely Bones: a novel**—Looking down from heaven, 14-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her rape and murder and watches her family as they cope with their grief and "the lovely bones" growing around her absence. Any others by this author.

* Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret : A novel in Words and Pictures**. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toymaker and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

* Shange, Ntozake. **Becky Brown: A novel** The portrait of an extended African-American family in which the thirteen-year-old daughter strives to be grown-up while facing prejudice and school busing pressures outside of the family. Any others by this author.

* Silko, Leslie Marmon. **Ceremony** Tayo, a young Native American, has been a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II and the horrors of captivity have almost eroded his will to survive. His return to the Laguna Pueblo reservation only increases his feeling of estrangement and alienation. While other returning soldiers find easy refuge in alcohol and senseless violence, Tayo searches for another kind of comfort and resolution. His quest leads him back to his Indian past and its traditions, to beliefs about witchcraft and evil and to the ancient stories of his people

* Sinclair, April. **Coffee will make you Black**— The coming-of-age story of a black girl in 1960's Chicago. Jean "Stevie" Stevenson is a child of the working poor. Stevie's dream is to be popular and cool, and her wish is granted when "all the way cool" Carla invites her to a party.

* Smith, Zadie. **On Beauty** Englishman Howard Belsey struggles to revive his love for his African-American wife as he works abroad at an American college, but when a disastrous affair is revealed, Howard learns his actions may have dire consequences on every member of his family. Any others by this author.

* Stork, Francis. **Behind the Eyes**. Sixteen-year-old Hector is the hope of his family, but when he seeks revenge after his brother's gang-related death and is sent to a San Antonio reform school, it takes an odd assortment of characters to help him see that hope is still alive.

* Styron, William. **Confessions of Nat Turner** This Pulitzer Prize winning novel tells the story of the short-lived, bloody rebellion of slaves in Southampton, Virginia, in August 1831, as seen through the eyes of the instigator, Nat Turner. Any others by this author.

- * Talbot, Bryan. **The Tale of One Bad Rat** Helen Potter lived a happy life until she got lost in a nightmare of sexual abuse. Now she's traveling through urban and rural England on a journey that is remarkably similar to the one Beatrix Potter once took. This book is yet another example of a touching story that transcends the misperceptions that comics are disposable, juvenile pap.
- * Tan, Amy. **The Kitchen God's Wife** A Chinese-American woman describes her life to her American-born daughter who has little understanding of her family's heritage. Any others by this author.
- * Thomas, Michael. **Man gone down** Born poor, black and brilliant in a Boston ghetto, the unnamed man of the title is, at 35, crashing at a friend's place in New York, trying to scrape up enough money to keep his family afloat. As he reluctantly returns to the construction jobs that he thought he'd left behind and works to collect on old debts (and defer his own), he traces his early years and the history of his relationship with his white Boston Brahmin wife, Claire. Now, as he struggles to support a life he isn't sure he believes in, he is tempted to return to drink, give up on his marriage and abandon his children, although Claire has demonstrated her unwavering support.
- * Twain, Mark. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** Mark Twain's classic novel tells the story of a teenaged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious. Any others by this author.
- * Vizzini, Ned. **It's Kind of a Funny Story**. A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital.
- * Walker, Alice. **The Color Purple** A feminist novel about an abused and uneducated black woman's struggle for empowerment, the novel was praised for the depth of its female characters and for its eloquent use of black English vernacular.
- * Wittlinger, Ellen **Parrotfish** Grady, a transgendered high school student, yearns for acceptance by his classmates and family as he struggles to adjust to his new identity as a male.
- * Wolff, Virginia. **Make Lemonade** Accepting a part-time babysitting job to earn college money, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn comes to love and understand her two charges, and their unmarried teenage mother Jolly, in a way no one else seems to want to.
- * Woodson, Jacqueline. **Feathers**. When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.
- * Wroblewski, David. **The Story of Edgar Sawtelle**. A Hamlet-style tale that also celebrates the ancient alliance between humans and dogs follow the coming-of-age of speech-disabled Wisconsin youth Edgar, who bonds with three yearling canines and struggles to prove that his sinister uncle is responsible for his father's death.

Arts – Fiction

- * Beaufrand, Mary Jane. **Primavera** Growing up in Renaissance Italy, Flora sees her family's fortunes ebb, but encounters with the artist Botticelli and the guidance of her nurse teach her to look past the material world to the beauty already in her life.

* Heuston, Kimberly. **Dante's Daughter** In fourteenth-century Italy, Antonia, the daughter of Dante Alighieri, longs for a stable family and home while developing her artistic talent and seeking a place for herself in a world with limited options for women.

* Joyce, James. **Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**—A masterpiece of subjectivity, a fictionalized memoir, a coming-of-age prose-poem, this brilliant novella introduces Joyce's alter ego, Stephen Daedalus, the hero of Ulysses, and begins the narrative experimentation that would help change the concept of literary narrative forever.

*Kaplow, Robert. **Me and Orson Welles: A Novel** A coming-of-age novel about a seventeen-year-old New Jersey boy who falls in love and stumbles into a bit part in Orson Welles's debut production on Broadway, all in the same week

* Lockart, E. **Fly on the Wall: How One Girl Saw Everything** When Gretchen Yee, a student at the Manhattan School for Art and Music, wishes she were a fly on the wall of the boys' locker room, she never expects her wish to come true in such a dramatic way.

* Russo, Richard. **Empire Falls** Though the book begins with Louis Charles ("Lucy") Lynch as a sixty year old in upstate Thomaston, New York, much of this story is about his childhood and youth. Lucy and wife, Sarah are preparing for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Italy, where his oldest friend, a renowned painter, has exiled himself far from anything they'd known in childhood. In fact, the exact nature of their friendship is one of the many mysteries Lucy hopes to untangle in the "history" he's writing of his hometown and family. The calamities suffered by one black family tell us everything about racism without pandering or sanctimony, while the tannery upriver that brings economic vitality--and cancer--teaches more about industry than any economics textbook. Sighs is beautiful, funny, and profound.

* Quick, Barbara. **Vivaldi's Virgins : A Novel** A tale set in Vivaldi's decadent Venice in the eighteenth century finds elite Ospedale della Pietà musician Anna Maria dal Violin embarking on a quest of self-discovery in Venetian society and the Jewish Ghetto.

* Salzman, Mark. **The soloist** Thirty-four-year-old Renne Sundheimer, a cello teacher at UCLA, has been deprived of a normal youth due to his early promise as a musical prodigy and his close relationship with his instructor, but he is forced to finally engage with life when he is called to serve on the jury for the trial of a Zen student accused of killing his master, and he takes on a brilliant new pupil.

Stassen, Jeanp-Phillipe Déogratias: A Tale of Rwanda / Stassen ; translated by Alex Siegel
Deogratias is just a teenager when he experiences genocide in Rwanda with the tale unfolding only before and after the massacre revealing the madness and horror of one young boy and his country.

Arts – Nonfiction & Biography

* Andoe, Joe. **Jubilee City : a Memoir at Full Speed** A memoir by an internationally renowned artist whose work has appeared in such prestigious collections as the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston traces his childhood quest for the ultimate experience in the Midwest, an effort that gave way to his artistic expressions.

* Bryson, Bill. **Shakespeare: The World as Stage.** A portrait of the Bard is presented in the style of a travelogue based on interviews with actors, the curator of Shakespeare's birthplace, and academics, in an account that also shares the author's recollections of his own adventures in Stratford-upon-Avon.

* Clapton, Eric. **Clapton : the autobiography / Eric Clapton** The legendary guitarist recounts the story of his life and career, recalling his work with the Yardbirds, Cream, and as a solo artist; years of drug and alcohol abuse; failed marriage to Patti Boyd; and the accidental death of his young son.

* DeLeeuw, Ronald. **The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh** Letter after letter sizzles with colorful, exacting descriptions of books and paintings, landscapes and people Vincent intended to paint.... This absorbing collection elaborates yet another side of this beguiling and brilliant artist.

* Gelly, Dave. **Life and Music of Lester Young** Showing how the music of the exceptionally sensitive man was shaped by his experiences, Gelly depicts Young as one of the great jazz masters who changed the way the saxophone was played.

* Gillespie, Marcia Ann, Rosa Johnson Butler and Richard A. Lang. **Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration.** An illustrated profile of one of America's best-loved writers pays tribute to the life, career, and activism of Maya Angelou, providing a scrapbook of an extraordinary woman who is renowned as a poet, author, playwright, and humanitarian.

* Hamilton, Linda H. **Advice for Dancers** This book is an excellent guide that addresses the social, emotional and physical needs of the developing dancer. Recommended as a resource for students and parents.

* Jasper, Kenji and Ytasha L. Womack, Eds. **Beats, rhymes, & life : what we love and hate about hip-hop.** Collects essays on modern hip-hop music and culture in which music journalists look at some of the most controversial ideas, symbols, and images in rap, and includes interviews with some of the genre's leading stars.

* Jones, Quincy. **Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones** Quincy Jones describes his life, from his childhood growing up in Chicago, to playing backup trumpet for Billie Holiday, to a career of recording his own music and producing the best-selling album of all time, Michael Jackson's "Thriller".

* Kavanagh, Julie. **Nureyev : the life.** A portrait of the iconic ballet dancer describes Nureyev's Soviet youth, his dramatic 1961 defection to the West, the performances that transformed him into an international celebrity, his flamboyant lifestyle, and his major influence on dance.

*Lang Lang with Michael French. **Lang Lang: Playing with Flying Keys.** Provides a look at the life and accomplishments of the noted pianist through his views on the differences between the cultures of the East and West, the great changes in his homeland of China, and his love for classical music.

*Lee, Bruce. **Bruce Lee: Artist of Life** A collection of Lee's writing, revealing that he was a man who was equal parts poet, philosopher, scientist, actor, producer, director, author, choreographer, martial artist, husband, father, and friend, dedicated to artistic expression with the goal of self-knowledge.

*Levitin, Daniel. **This Is Your Brain On Music: The Science of a Human Obsession-** An exploration of the relationship between the mind and music draws on recent findings in the fields of neuroscience and evolutionary psychology to discuss such topics as the sources of musical tastes, the brain's discernible responses to music, and the cultural origins of musical senses.

* Neimark, Anne. **Up Close: Johnny Cash.** Profiles the music icon who is the only musician ever to be inducted into three halls of fame (Country Music, Rock and Roll, and Songwriters), and whose work has influenced numerous performers, including Bob Dylan, U2, and Nine Inch Nails.

* Partridge, Elizabeth. **This land was made for you and me: the life & songs of Woody Guthrie**-An illustrated biography of Woody Guthrie, composer of "This Land Is Your Land," and over three thousand other folk songs and ballads, telling about his travels throughout the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century, and discussing how experiences influenced his music.

* Smith, Anna Devere. **Letters to a Young Artist: Straight-up Advice on Making a Life in the Arts - For Actors, Performers, Writers and Artists of Every Kind.**

* Tharp, Twyla. **The Creative Habit.** Dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp examines creativity, focusing on the role of routine and habit in the creative process, and presents over thirty exercises designed to help people develop their creative impulses.

Wareham, Dean. **Black Postcards.** A founder of two moderately successful rock bands describes his coming-of-age as a cultural outsider, his observations about the music industry, and his witness to the emergence of the indie and alternative music genres.

Mysteries

* Barr, Nevada. **Track of the Cat**— The memory of violence and loss drove Anna Pigeon from the city to seek peace in the Southwestern wilderness. Now a ranger in America's national parks, Anna is at one with nature and its serene, unspoiled majesty.

* Christie, Agatha. **The Murder of Roger Ackroid** This novel, written in 1927, is considered the best and most successful of the early mysteries. It met with no small outrage when it appeared, as it uses a plot device many readers thought "unfair."

* Cross, Amanda. **Poetic Justice** This novel is set during the turbulent student uprisings. Kate is charged with saving the University College, sort of like NYU's New School, primarily for adults returning to finish their education. The powers that be do not want the school to continue, the reasons are not clear.

* Dunning, John. **The Bookman's Wake** Cliff Janeway, Denver cop-turned-book-dealer, finds himself chasing down a charming young fugitive named Eleanor Rigby, who has stolen a rare copy of Poe's "The Raven" for reasons of her own. Trouble follows, and Eleanor disappears into a city filled with people who want the book, and don't care what they have to do to get it/

* Ferguson, Alane. **The Christopher Killer** On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

* Grafton, Sue. **"A" is for Alibi** Plenty of people in the picturesque town of Santa Teresa, California, wanted Laurence Fife, a ruthless divorce attorney, dead. Including, thought the cops, his young and beautiful wife, who was convicted of the crime.

* Hillerman, Tony. **A Thief of Time** Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police join forces in Hillerman's imaginative series on crimes occurring in or around the four corners country of the Southwest.

* Voelkel, J & P. **Middleworld / J & P Voelkel** When Max Murphy discovers that his archaeologist parents have mysteriously disappeared while excavating an ancient Mayan site in Central America, he sets off in search of them, with the assistance of a Mayan girl named Lola.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

* Anthony, Piers. **Demons Don't Dream** Two young adventurers are drawn into the world of Xanth through a computer game and find themselves in a desperate race against time when treachery, danger, and deceit place Xanth itself in peril, as they learn that some things are more important than winning.

* Bradbury, Ray. **Fahrenheit 451** A classic, frightening vision of the future, where firemen don't put out fires—they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal— a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad.

* Card, Orson Scott. **Ender's Game** Aliens have attacked earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses, and then training them to the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of "games" ... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games. He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet.

* Child, Maureen. **Bedeveled**. A descendant of Otherworldly Faeries, suddenly finds herself endowed with superhuman strength and the ability to fly awkwardly through the air, abilities that are needed to solve Otherworld problems, including her attraction to a hunky Faery warrior.

* Maguire, Gregory. **Wicked** and **Son of a Witch** These companion novels take the story of "The Wizard of Oz" to political and satirical depths. If you like Baum's story or the movie, you will enjoy learning why things are the way they are in Oz such as like why the witch is green and her adventures in Oz's version of college. Lots of fun and food for thought.

* Ness, Patrick. **Knife of Never Letting Go**. Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about his colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World.

* Pullman, Philip. **The Golden Compass** Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

* Stephenson, Neal. **Snow Crash** It is a world where the Mafia controls pizza delivery, the United States exists as a patchwork of corporate-franchise city-states, and the Internet—incarnate as the Metaverse—looks something like last year's hype would lead you to believe it should.

* Stroud, Jonathan. **Ptolemy's Gate** Dangerous adventures of Djinni Bartimaeus and his master, seventeen-year-old Nathaniel, a powerful magician who is serving as England's minister of information.

* Tolkien, J.R.R. **Lord of the Rings** The three parts of J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings--The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, and The Return of the Ring. One of the best-loved epics of our time, The Lord of the Rings tells of Frodo Baggins's perilous journey across the realms of Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, deep inside the territories of Sauron, the Dark Lord. With Gandalf the Wizard, Gimli the Dwarf, Legolas the Elf, and the other hobbits Merry, Pippin, and Sam, Frodo must foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

* Uehashi, Nahoko. **Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit**. Watching a boy tumble from a bridge into the river in an apparent act of murder, Balsa comes to his aid and discovers that he is Prince Chagum, a child of royalty who carries a secret that can destroy the world, and so now must work to deliver him to the Water Spirit before his enemies track him down and complete their deadly task.

Arts – Nonfiction & Biography

- * Andoe, Joe. **Jubilee City : a Memoir at Full Speed** A memoir by an internationally renowned artist whose work has appeared in such prestigious collections as the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston traces his childhood quest for the ultimate experience in the Midwest, an effort that gave way to his artistic expressions.
- * Bryson, Bill. **Shakespeare: The World as Stage** A portrait of the Bard is presented in the style of a travelogue based on interviews with actors, the curator of Shakespeare's birthplace, and academics, in an account that also shares the author's recollections of his own adventures in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- * Clapton, Eric. **Clapton : the autobiography / Eric Clapton** The legendary guitarist recounts the story of his life and career, recalling his work with the Yardbirds, Cream, and as a solo artist; years of drug and alcohol abuse; failed marriage to Patti Boyd; and the accidental death of his young son.
- * Cockcroft, James D. **Latino Visions: Contemporary Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Cuban American Artists**—Describes the evolution of Latino art in America through discussion of various artistic movements and important Latino artists.
- * DeLeeuw, Ronald. **The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh** Letter after letter sizzles with colorful, exacting descriptions of books and paintings, landscapes and people Vincent intended to paint.... This absorbing collection elaborates yet another side of this beguiling and brilliant artist.
- * Gelly, Dave. **Life and Music of Lester Young** Showing how the music of the exceptionally sensitive man was shaped by his experiences, Gelly depicts Young as one of the great jazz masters who changed the way the saxophone was played.
- * Gillespie, Marcia Ann, Rosa Johnson Butler and Richard A. Lang. **Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration.** An illustrated profile of one of America's best-loved writers pays tribute to the life, career, and activism of Maya Angelou, providing a scrapbook of an extraordinary woman who is renowned as a poet, author, playwright, and humanitarian.
- * Hamilton, Linda H. **Advice for Dancers** This book is an excellent guide that addresses the social, emotional and physical needs of the developing dancer. Recommended as a resource for students and parents.
- * Jasper, Kenji and Ytasha L. Womack, Eds. **Beats, rhymes, & life : what we love and hate about hip-hop.** Collects essays on modern hip-hop music and culture in which music journalists look at some of the most controversial ideas, symbols, and images in rap, and includes interviews with some of the genre's leading stars.
- * Jones, Quincy. **Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones** Quincy Jones describes his life, from his childhood growing up in Chicago, to playing backup trumpet for Billie Holiday, to a career of recording his own music and producing the best-selling album of all time, Michael Jackson's "Thriller".
- * Kavanagh, Julie. **Nureyev : the life.** A portrait of the iconic ballet dancer describes Nureyev's Soviet youth, his dramatic 1961 defection to the West, the performances that transformed him into an international celebrity, his flamboyant lifestyle, and his major influence on dance.

*Lang Lang with Michael French. **Lang Lang: Playing with Flying Keys.** Provides a look at the life and accomplishments of the noted pianist through his views on the differences between the cultures of the East and West, the great changes in his homeland of China, and his love for classical music.

*Lee, Bruce. **Bruce Lee: Artist of Life** A collection of Lee's writing, revealing that he was a man who was equal parts poet, philosopher, scientist, actor, producer, director, author, choreographer, martial artist, husband, father, and friend, dedicated to artistic expression with the goal of self-knowledge.

*Levitin, Daniel. **This Is Your Brain On Music: The Science of a Human Obsession-** An exploration of the relationship between the mind and music draws on recent findings in the fields of neuroscience and evolutionary psychology to discuss such topics as the sources of musical tastes, the brain's discernible responses to music, and the cultural origins of musical senses.

* Neimark, Anne. **Up Close: Johnny Cash.** Profiles the music icon who is the only musician ever to be inducted into three halls of fame (Country Music, Rock and Roll, and Songwriters), and whose work has influenced numerous performers, including Bob Dylan, U2, and Nine Inch Nails.

* Partridge, Elizabeth. **This land was made for you and me: the life & songs of Woody Guthrie-**An illustrated biography of Woody Guthrie, composer of "This Land Is Your Land," and over three thousand other folk songs and ballads, telling about his travels throughout the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century, and discussing how experiences influenced his music.

*Smith, Anna Deveare. **Letters to a Young Artist: Straight-up Advice on Making a Life in the Arts - For Actors, Performers, Writers and Artists of Every Kind.** Provides advice to young artists on how they can integrate artistic integrity with professional savvy, discussing such topics as the importance of networking, the role of the artist in social change, and how to pursue one's art without compromise.

* Tharp, Twyla. **The Creative Habit.** Dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp examines creativity, focusing on the role of routine and habit in the creative process, and presents over thirty exercises designed to help people develop their creative impulses.

* Wareham, Dean. **Black Postcards.** A founder of two moderately successful rock bands describes his coming-of-age as a cultural outsider, his observations about the music industry, and his witness to the emergence of the indie and alternative music genres.

Biography

* Angelou, Maya. **Wouldn't take Nothing for my Journey Now** Offering gems of truth on every page, a treasure of a book from the beloved poet is down to earth, inspirational, and wise, offering thoughts on womanhood, spirituality, and the joy of living well.

* Arlen, Michael. **Passage to Ararat** The book covers a great deal of accurate Armenian history, where both Turkish and Armenian views are considered. This is a great book to learn about Armenian history, culture, mentality and the Armenian Genocide.

* Ashe, Arthur. **Days of Grace** A genuinely affecting testament from the quietly activist champion-athlete who died young. Ashe's shares life, his beliefs and his final thoughts on the world and his life. Ashe triumphed in sport to become wealthy and well known, but suffered from racial prejudice as a child and terrible diseases as an adult.

*Barakat, Ibtisam. **Tasting the sky : a Palestinian childhood.** The author remembers her childhood in Ramallah and as a Palestinian refugee in the late 1960s.

* Beals, Melba Pattillo. **Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High**—Beals chronicles her harrowing junior year at Central High where she underwent the segregationists' brutal organized campaign of terrorism which included telephone threats, vigilante stalkers, economic blackmailers, rogue police, and much more.

* Bok, Francis. **Escape from Slavery-** A present-day escaped slave recounts his brutal capture and enslavement at the age of seven, his harrowing escape to a refugee camp and finally America, his education, and his ongoing work as an anti-slavery activist.

* Carroll, Cathryn and Catherine Hoffpauir Fisher. **Orchid of the Bayou: A Deaf Woman Faces Blindness**—Here Fisher presents a vivid portrait of Cajun culture and provides an even more arresting description of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, a residential institution she began attending in 1953 at the age of six.

* Chai, May-lee. **Hapa Girl : A Memoir.** A memoir of growing up in a rural South Dakota university town with a Chinese-American father and an Irish Catholic mother offers a portrait of a loving family who finds tension, fear, racial anxiety, and violence in their new hometown.

* Chen, Da. **China's Son: Growing up in the Cultural Revolution**— (Adaptation of Colors of the Mountain) In 1962, as millions of Chinese citizens were gripped by Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution and the Red Guards enforced a brutal regime of communism, a boy was born to a poor family in southern China. Da Chen seemed destined for a life of poverty, shame, and hunger. But winning humor and an indomitable spirit can be found in the most unexpected places. Colors of the Mountain is a story of triumph, a memoir of a boyhood full of spunk, mischief, and love.

* Clercq Zubli, Rita La Fontaine de. **Disguised: A War Memoir.** Details the author's experiences in a Japanese POW camp where she, disguised as a boy and outraged at the conditions, injustice, and torture, dared to speak up for her fellow prisoners of war.

* Daniels, Eddie. **There and Back : Robben Island, 1964-1979**—Eddie Daniels was convicted of sabotage for the anti-apartheid activities he undertook while a member of the illegal African Resistance Movement, which he helped found. He was incarcerated with the future president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, in Robben Island Maximum Security Prison from 1964 to 1979. Daniels and Mandela developed a close friendship as they labored in the island's limestone quarry, grew weak on protein-deprived diets, hungered for communication with loved ones outside the prison's walls and shared dreams of a non-racial, democratic South African nation.

Danticat, Edwidge. **Brother, I'm Dying /** In a personal memoir, the author describes her relationships with the two men closest to her--her father and his brother, Joseph, a charismatic pastor with whom she lived after her parents emigrated from Haiti to the United States. Any others by the author - many fiction titles.

* Dorris, Michael. **The Broken Cord**—This is the heartrending story, full of compassion and rage, of how Dorris' son grew up mentally retarded, a victim of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome whom no amount of love could make whole.

* Engle, Margarita. **The poet slave of Cuba : a biography of Juan Francisco Manzano. Art by Sean Qualls.** Born a slave, raised by a woman not his mother, and denied an education, Juan overcame all the

personal obstacles he faced as a child in order to reach freedom, pursue his natural talents, and become the celebrated poet he was destined to be.

*Forbes, Flores A. **Will You Die With Me?**— A personal memoir of a Black Panther Party Central Committee member recounts his rise from an angry youth to leading Buddha Samurai cadre. He secretly organized resistance efforts to police brutality and promoted the black liberation movement.

* Galarza, Ernesto. **Barrio Boy**— The autobiography of a Mexican boy in his new home in California.

* Gantos, Jack. **Hole in My Life**—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.

* Gates, Jr. Henry Louis **Colored People: A Memoir**—A remembrance of childhood and youth in the 1950s and 1960s that is almost elegiac in its soft tone. Gates is a noted scholar who's currently head of the African American Studies Department at Harvard.

* Gill, Michael Gates. **How Starbucks Saved My life : A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else.** A former advertising executive relates how, after losing his high-paying job and developing a brain tumor, he took a job at Starbucks under a young African-American manager, whose positive character helped him heal and understand the value of respecting others.

* Gillespie, Marcia Ann, Rosa Johnson Butler and Richard A. Lang. **Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration.** An illustrated profile of one of America's best-loved writers pays tribute to the life, career, and activism of Maya Angelou, providing a scrapbook of an extraordinary woman who is renowned as a poet, author, playwright, and humanitarian.

* Haley, Alex. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X**—This book is a historical, sociological, psychological, theological, political, cultural, and biographical treasure! Alex Haley, together with the assistance of Malcolm X, put ink to paper and brought one of the greatest leaders who ever lived to life in book form.

* Lugovskaya, Nina. **Khochu zhit' . English I want to live : the Diary of a Young Girl in Stalin's Russia, translated by Andrew Bromfield.** Presents excerpts from a diary, written by thirteen-year-old Nina Lugovskaya, that was confiscated by the NKVD--Stalin's secret police--in 1937, and that reveals a time of political upheaval, betrayal, and repression through the eyes of an innocent.

* Kisor, Henry. **What's that Pig Outdoors? A Memoir of Deafness**—Genial and moving, sharp and witty, Kisor's memoir defies pigeonholing of the deaf by hearing and deaf persons alike.

* Lee, Joann Faung Jean Lee. **Asian Americans in the 21st Century: Oral Histories.** Presents the stories of first-to-fourth generation Americans of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Asian-Indian, Pacific Island, and Southeast Asian descent, in which they discuss what it is like to live in America, various aspects of Americanization, and interracial marriage.

* Maclean, Norman. **Young Men and Fire**—The firefighters perished in a "blowup"—an explosive, 2,000-degree firestorm 300 feet deep and 200 feet tall. The excruciating detail of this book makes for a sobering reading experience.

* Mailer, Norman. **Oswald's Tale: An American Mystery**—Mailer reconstructs the life of Lee Harvey Oswald, whose claim to fame is having killed John F. Kennedy. Includes a full account of his years in Minsk, his disastrous childhood, his years in the Marines, and the events leading from his return to the US in 1961 to his death in Dallas in 1963.

* McBride, James. **The Color of Water**—The Color of Water tells the remarkable story of Ruth McBride Jordan, the two good men she married, and the 12 good children she raised. Jordan, born Rachel Shilsky, a Polish Jew, immigrated to America soon after birth; as an adult she moved to New York City, leaving her family and faith behind in Virginia.

* McCourt, Frank. **Angela's Ashes**—Recounting scenes from his childhood in New York City and Limerick, Ireland, McCourt paints a brutal yet poignant picture of his early days when there was rarely enough food on the table, and boots and coats were a luxury.

* Millman, Isaac. **Hidden child**. The author details his difficult experiences as a young Jewish child living in Nazi-occupied France during the 1940s.

* Monette Paul **Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story**—Paul Monette did not lead a life different from many gay men—he struggled courageously with his family, his sexuality, his AIDS diagnosis—but in bearing witness to his and others' pain, he creates a personal testimony that illuminates the darkest corners of our culture even as it finds unexpected reserves of hope.

* Morris, Dashaun "Jiwe". **War of the Bloods in my Veins**. In this haunting memoir, Morris shares his childhood turned inside out when, in fourth grade, he loses his first friend in a drive-by shooting. By high school he is the man, a champion on the football field by day and gang member by night. This is a plea to his brothers that gang life is mental illness.

* Murphy, Jim. **The Real Benedict Arnold**. Provides a comprehensive look at the life of this American army officer and hero who turned traitor and the motives that led him to do what he did through letters, memoirs, and political documents from that period in history.

* Myers, Walter Dean. **Malcolm X, By any Means Necessary**— This book profiles the late African American leader, providing a startling picture of the life of the controversial and important historical figure.

*Nemat, Marina. **Prisoner of Tehran : A Memoir**. Follows the author's tragic childhood in 1980s Iran, which was shaped by war and her work as an anti-propaganda activist, efforts for which she was beaten and sentenced to death before a guard offered to save her if she would convert to Islam and marry him.

* Nguyen Kien **The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood**—Kien Nguyen grew up an outsider in his native land. His once prosperous family, thrust into poverty at the dawn of a new political regime, lived among neighbors who treated them as an unwelcome remnant of the colonialist past. Kien himself, a child of mixed race (his father was American), was among the most unwanted. Told with a stark, poetic brilliance, Kien's account of his early years--from the fall of Saigon, when at age eight he watched the last U.S. Army helicopter leave without him and his family, to his eventual escape--is a work of profound emotional resonance, at once harrowing and inspiring.

* Parks, Rosa. **Rosa Parks: My Story**—This autobiography of the civil rights hero becomes an oral history of the movement, including her recollections of Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, and others. From "How It All Started" to "We Fight for the Right to Vote" to "Stride toward Freedom," Rosa Parks gives her personal insights into her own actions and the civil rights movement. This book captures the essence of this courageous woman.

* Prejean, Helen. **Dead Man Walking**— An excellent overview of Capital Punishment in the United States. Helen Prejean details her dealings with death row inmates, offers vital statistics and accounts of cases.

*Robison, John Elder. **Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's**. The author describes life growing up different in an odd family, his unusual talents, his struggle for a "normal" life, his diagnosis at forty of Asperger's syndrome, and the dramatic changes that have occurred since that diagnosis.

* Santiago, Esmeralda. **When I Was Puerto Rican**—Esmeralda and her seven siblings live in a corrugated metal shack in Puerto Rico. She is uprooted as a result of poverty and her parents' quarreling and suffers blows to her ego from their expectations of her. The girl goes to New York, where her grandmother lives, and must rely on her intelligence and talents to help her survive in an alien world in which being Puerto Rican is not advantageous.

* Sebold, Alice. **Lucky**—The author tells the story of her violent rape at the age of eighteen, her accidental sighting of her attacker six months later, the resulting trial and conviction of the man, and the trauma she suffered for years afterwards.

* Sedaris, David. **Naked**—NAKED by David Sedaris comprises seventeen chapters of ostensibly amusing autobiographical reminiscences spanning his North Carolina childhood through teenage years to young adulthood

* Senna, Danzy. **Where Did you Sleep Last Night?** Author of *Caucasia* and daughter of a white Boston Brahmin mother and southern, black father, Senna writes of race and relatives, her parents' volatile marriage and distressing divorce. This powerful memoir is powerful and controversial. Any other books by this author.

* Tate, Sonsyrea. **Little X: Growing Up in the Nation of Islam**—Little X offers useful insights into life inside a movement most readers don't understand. Tate describes her education at the University of Islam, the Nation's elementary school in Washington, D.C.

* Tram, Dang Thuy. **Last Night I Dreamed of Peace**. Written between 1968 and 1970, the posthumously discovered diary of a young female North Vietnamese doctor, killed by American forces not far from where she worked, offers an account of her devotion to family and country, and the horrors of war.

* Uchida, Yoshiko. **The Invisible Thread**—Growing up in California, Yoshi knew her family looked different from their neighbors. Still, she felt like an American. But everything changed when America went to war against Japan

* Walls, Jeanette. **The Glass Castle: A Memoir**— The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

* White, Ryan. **Ryan White: My Own Story**— The late AIDS sufferer describes how he contracted the virus; the negative response of his friends and neighbors in his hometown of Kokomo, Indiana; his battle to reenter school; and his fight to educate people about the disease.

Nonfiction – Sports

* Asinof, Eliot. **Eight men out: the Black Sox and the 1919 World Series**—Describes the backgrounds and motives of the players, the actual plays of the series, the indictments, and the famous 1921 trial.

* Bissinger, H.G. **Friday Night Lights: a Town, a Team, and a Dream**—Follows the 1988 season of the Permian Panthers, a high school football team in Odessa, Texas, exploring the lives of the players and the impact of the championship team on the small town.

* Bryant, Howard. **Shut Out: a Story of Race and Baseball in Boston**—Argues that the Boston Red Sox missed out on having a dream team featuring Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays due to the franchise's racist practices, and examines the ownership dynasty of the Yawkey family and racial issues in the city of Boston as a whole.

* Corbett, Sara. **Venus to the Hoop: a Gold-Medal Year in Women's Basketball**—Profiles the twelve female athletes and coach of the 1996 United States Women's National Basketball Team and discusses their personal and team journeys to win gold medals at the 1996 Olympics.

* Halberstam, David. **The Summer of '49**—This chronicle of the 1949 American League pennant race between the Red Sox and the Yankees captures the spirit of the game and the exploits of Ted Williams, Dom DiMaggio, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, and many other baseball greats.

* Joravsky, Ben. **Hoop Dreams**—A study of the struggles of Arthur Agee and William Gates to win college scholarships and positions on professional teams follows the stories of their families, relationships, and personal aspirations.

* Kadir, Nelson. **We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball**. Describes the glory years of Negro league baseball in the early 1900s, profiling its star athletes and highlighting the challenges faced by the players and the sacrifices made to live out their dreams and play the game they loved.

* Mailer, Norman. **The Fight**—One of America's most famous novelists and journalists examines the principles, promoters, and observers surrounding the 1974 Ali-Forman championship boxing match held in Kinshasa, Zaire.

* McKissack, Patricia. **Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball League**— With passion and purpose, the mother-son team has written an account of Negro League baseball and its relationship to major-league baseball, from the sport's origin in 1839 to the early 1950s.

* Roy, Travis. **Eleven Seconds**—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.

* Ryan, Joan. **Little girls in pretty boxes: the making and breaking of elite gymnasts and figure skaters**—Investigates the destructive side of women's elite competition in gymnastics and figure skating, exposing such problems as eating disorders, stunted growth, and debilitating injuries. Concludes that abusive coaches and intense pressure from parents are often to blame.

* Shaughnessy, Dan. **Senior Year: A Father, A Son and High School Baseball**. The author chronicles his son's senior year of high school baseball, the boy's obsession with and talent for sports, and his efforts to keep his grades up while deciding what college to attend and avoiding problems until graduation.

* Wideman, John Edgar. **Hoop Roots** - This multilayered memoir of basketball, family, home, and race is Wideman's first nonfiction work since his National Book Award finalist, "Fatheralong." Bringing "a touch of Proust to the blacktop" ("Time"), "Hoop Roots" tells of Wideman's love for a game he can no longer play.

Poetry

* Crisler, Curtis. A collection of poems depicts the lives of poverty, crime, despair, and lost innocence of African American teenagers growing up in Gary, Indiana.

* Dove, Rita. **Selected Poems**—Brought together for the first time in one volume are the astonishing poems of the nation's new Poet Laureate—the youngest and the first African-American chosen for the position.

* Espada, Martin. **Republic of Poetry**. The heart of this collection is a cycle of Chile poems on creation, destruction, and redemption.

* Glenn, Mel. **Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems**—A powerful book of poems about a group of high school seniors who are held hostage by their history teacher. Dreams, fears and secrets of teens in an urban setting revealed.

* Nelson, Marlyn. **Carver: A Life in Poems**. A collection of forty-four poems--told from the point of view of Carver and the people who knew him--provides an account of the life of African American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.

* Pinsky, Robert. **Jersey Rain**—Pinsky, Poet Laureate and BAA Graduation Speaker 2005, returns to the familiar gullies and boulevards of the past, guided by Hermes, god of music. The voice here is of a meditative man and not a child; it is distinct, lyrical, knowing and honest.

* Shihab, Naomi Ny. **Honeybee**. Celebrates honeybees and their work as a metaphor for human love, work, and memory.

* Shihab, Naomi Ny. **19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East**. A collection of sixty poems in which the Arab-American author examines life in the Middle East.

* Vecchione, Patrice. Ed. **Faith & Doubt : An Anthology of Poems**. A collection of poems that explores the many facets of human faith and doubt includes a diverse selection of verses that ranges in topics from religion and politics to love, war, and the act of writing itself.

* Young, Kevin. **Dear Darkness: Poems**. These elegies are a reflection of the death of the poet's father, a violent event that silenced Young with grief until turning to rhapsodizing about the food that sustained him and his Louisiana family for decades. "Aunties" and "double cousins" help Young to speak to shared loss, hunger and pain, but includes blessings knowing "inside/ anything can sing."

Nonfiction

* Alcorn, Stephen. **I, Too, Sing America: Three Centuries of African-American Poetry** A collection of poems by African-American writers, including Lucy Terry, Gwendolyn Bennett, and Alice Walker.

* Alvarez, Julia. **Once upon a Quinceañera**. A cultural exploration of the Latina fifteenth birthday celebration traces the experiences of a Queens teen preparing for her quinceañera, in an account that documents the history of the celebration's traditions as well as its growing popularity.

* Anthony, Lawrence. **Babylon's Ark**. South African conservationist and environmentalist Anthony received the Earth Day Medal for his work in Baghdad. Here he recounts his own efforts and those of Iraqis and Americans to care for the animals in the Baghdad Zoo as people were getting killed all around it. Part of the story includes saving a pride of Uday Hussein's lions, closing a black-market zoo, and rescuing Saddam's Arabian horses from a hidden stable in Abo Ghraib.

* Bartoletti, Susan. **Black Potatoes**—During the Irish potato famine of 1845-50, one million people died and two million fled. The chronology of the disaster unfolds in this gruelingly poignant text that draws heavily on news reports and first-person narratives.

* Brown, Dee. **Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee**—Beginning with the Long Walk of the Navajos in 1860 and ending 30 years later with the massacre of Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, it tells how the American Indians lost their land and lives to a dynamically expanding white society.

- * Burke, James. **The Day the Universe Changed**—Burke examines the course of man's beliefs from the Middle Ages to today, focusing on the critical periods in history when the ideas and institutions that have transformed man's understanding of the world were born.
- * Carlin, John. **Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation**. Documents the anti-apartheid advocate's ten-year effort to unite his country, during which he worked with proponents of apartheid from his jail cell, won the presidency, and helped South Africa's national rugby team host the World Cup as part of a unifying campaign.
- * Gladwell, Malcolm. **The Tipping Point** An introduction to the Tipping Point theory explains how minor changes in ideas and products can increase their popularity and how small adjustments in an individual's immediate environment can alter group behaviors.
- * Hirsh, Kathleen. **Songs from the Alley**—Straight to the heart of the most urgent social problem in America, this documentary of the homeless is sure to touch the consciousness of all who read these beautifully executed stories.
- * Holldobler, Bert & Edward O. Wilson. **Journey to the Ants: A story of Scientific Exploration**. With childlike wonder, the authors, who are myrmecologists, make their science wonderful and accessible. The rich detail, brilliant photographs and ant lore provided one book reviewer to say, "I would have gone to the ants and acquired wisdom."
- * Jarvis, Cheryl. **The Necklace**. Documents the anti-apartheid advocate's ten-year effort to unite his country, during which he worked with proponents of apartheid from his jail cell, won the presidency, and helped South Africa's national rugby team host the World Cup as part of a unifying campaign.
- * Iyer, Pico. **The Open Road: the Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama**. An illuminating account of the Dalai Lama explores his diverse roles as a politician, scientist, philosopher, and religious leader; discusses his ideas about religion, Tibet, peace, and world events; and examines his hidden life, often pragmatic messages, and the daily challenges he confronts.
- * Levine, Ellen. **Freedom's Children**—Young civil rights activists tell their own stories. Note: Southern blacks who were young and involved in the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s describe their experiences.
- * Miller, Kenneth. **Finding Darwin's God**—Miller examines the key issues that seem to divide the scientific and religious views of creation in an attempt to answer the question of whether or not God and evolution can coexist.
- * Mortenson, Greg. **Three Cups of Tea**. Traces how the author, having been rescued and resuscitated by Himalayan villagers after a failed attempt to climb K2, worked to build schools that would benefit the young girls who were forbidden an education by Taliban restrictions.
- * Murphy, Jim. **An American Plague: The True Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793**. Murphy brings alive the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793. Primary sources and gripping narrative, depict the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.
- * Olmstead, Larry. **Getting into Guinness: One Man's Longest, Fastest, Highest Journey Inside the World's Most Famous Record Book**. A full-throttle joyride through the bizarre world behind the records. This gifted story teller paints a vivid picture of the silliness and absurdity of the global quest for fame.

* Nafisi, Azar and Azar Nafisi. **Reading Lolita in Tehran**—Prof. Nafisi resigned from her job as professor of English Literature at a university in Tehran in 1995 due to repressive government policies. For the next 2 years, until she left Iran, she gathered 7 young women, former students, at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss works of Western literature forbidden by the new regime. They used this forum to learn to speak freely, not only about literature, but also about the social, political, and cultural realities of living under strict Islamic rule.

*Polly, Matthew. **American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: an Odyssey in the New China**. Describes the childhood dream that led the author to study martial arts at China's famed Shaolin Temple, his initial disenchantment that turned into respect for the instructors, and the training that eventually led him to represent the Temple in international competitions.

* Schutz, Samatha **I don't want to be crazy**. In this work of poetry Schutz is candid about going away to college and finding the independence she desired difficult to handle. She begins to suffer from incapacitating anxiety attacks that change everything she had planned.

* Roueche, Burton. **The Medical Detectives**—Contains three fascinating tales of strange illnesses, rare diseases, poisons, and parasites—each tale a thriller of medical suspense by the incomparable Beron Roueche.

* Spiegelman, Art. **In the shadow of no towers**—Spiegelman summons his considerable talent to express exactly what the horrendous events of 9/11 meant to him and his family, both at the time and since that fateful day. The author lives and works in the immediate vicinity of ground zero, and his daughter was attending high school in the shadow of the towers. With wry insight he depicts the anxious efforts of his family to reach one another as the towers were burning. Spiegelman employs a multitude of narrative devices and graphic styles, numerous political and cultural references, and inspired motifs from late-19th- and early-20th-century comic strips.

*Taylor, Peter Lane. **The Secret of Priest's Grotto**. Two explorers survey caves in the Western Ukraine and relate the story of how an extended Jewish family, fleeing persecution by the Nazis, lived for two years in a large cave, Popowa Yama, and survived the war.

* Tobin, Jacqueline L. and Raymond G. Dobard. **Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad**—African Americans make coded quilts and use them to escape from slavery.

* Steinberg, Jonny. **Sizwe's Test: A Young Man's Journey Through Africa's AIDS Epidemic**. Explores the perspectives of HIV-positive villagers in rural South Africa, revealing the cultural misunderstandings, superstitions, and stigmas that compel people to refuse free treatment and challenge efforts to stop the spread of AIDS.

* Tucker, Neely. **Love in the Driest Season**. Follows an American foreign correspondent's and his wife's struggle to save the life of, and eventually adopt, an infant girl who was abandoned in conflict-torn Zimbabwe, an endeavor during which they volunteered at the capital's orphanage, faced a series of bureaucratic obstacles, and battled numerous life-threatening conditions that compromised the child's health.

* Van Lente, Fred. **Action Philosophers**. In graphic novel format, explains the theories of various philosophers through humorous examples and anecdotes.

* Zinn, Howard. **A People's History of America**—A history of the United States, from 1492 through the early years of the Clinton presidency, told from the point of view of African-Americans, women, Native Americans, and poor laborers of all nationalities, who have been politically and economically exploited.

