

## 10th GRADE Reading Greater Lowell Tech. High School

### **Silver Kiss** / Annette Klause

A novel of a young girl struggling to accept the impending death of her mother is curiously interwoven with her entanglement with a vampire.

### **Zack** / William Bell

A boy goes on a journey in search of his roots. Zack is the son of an unlikely but happy marriage: his mother is a black blues singer and his father is a white Jewish college professor. Zack is resentful and bitter toward his parents for moving--in his last year of high school--from Toronto to a small college town in the country. He misses the excitement of the city, and things are rough at school.

### **Crashboomlove: A Novel in Verse** / Juan Felipe Herrera

Portrait of Cesar Garcia, a 16-year-old Mexican teen growing up in the American high school.

### **Chasing Redbird** / Sharon Creech

Contemporary adolescent with an independent spirit ties with special people in her life, and an interest in nature makes her way through life's obstacles; as she clears a path through the Kentucky woods, she finds a way to herself.

### **Romiette and Julio** / Sharon M. Draper

Romiette Cappelle, a black American girl, meets Julio Montague, a Hispanic boy from Texas, in a chat room. When they meet in person in the school cafeteria it is love at first sight. The similarity of their names with Shakespeare's heroes is not coincidence. Romiette and Julio's relationship attracts harassment by the school's gang. Things go from bad to worse when the couple and their friends try to expose the gang's illegal activities in order to persuade gang members to leave them alone.

### **Monster** / Walter Dean Myers

Monster is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

### **Downriver** / Will Hobbs

No adults, no permit, no river map. Just some "borrowed" gear from Discovery Unlimited, the outdoor education program Jessie and her new companions have just ditched. Jessie and the others are having the time of their lives floating beneath sheer red walls, exploring unknown caves and dangerous waterfalls, and plunging through the Grand Canyon's roaring rapids. No one, including Troy, who emerges as the group's magnetic and ultimately frightening leader, can foresee the challenges and conflicts. What will be the consequences of their reckless adventure?

### **Whale Talk**

Chris Crutcher

Crutcher's gripping tale of small-town prejudice delivers a powerful message about social issues and ills and a darkly ironic appraisal of the high school sports arena.

### **When I Was Puerto Rican**

Esmeralda Santiago

Many individuals who grew up in the barrios found life to be a struggle for survival. In Santiago's memoir, she recalls her own passage through childhood, when her mother moved her children from the humble dwelling they all shared in the country outside San Juan to a Brooklyn apartment adjoining the projects.

### **Almost a Woman**

Esmeralda Santiago

The broad outlines of Santiago's life story, begun in *When I Was Puerto Rican* (1993) and continued here, are familiar; indeed, they portray the quintessential American experience--that of a stranger in a strange land.

### **The Killer Angels**

Michael Shaara

Allows the reader to enter into the minds and hearts of the men who fought at Gettysburg; portrays idea that it is not armies who fight wars, but individuals; it is not theories of strategy which yield victory, but human insight and effort.

### **Their Eyes Were Watching God** – (recommended for College English)

Zora Neale Hurston

Sympathetic portrayal of a young black woman's struggles in central Florida in the early 1900s; a notable and historic example of black fiction and a powerful evocation of feminine self-actualization.

### **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** – (recommended for College English)

Maya Angelou

In a poetic, yet detached way, Maya Angelou captures the heart of her struggles growing up female and Black during the Depression. Her style and description draw in the reader and keep her spellbound even during the most painful scenes. You feel deeply for the author and her little brother as they drift through their lives living for a bit of affection. Neglected by their divorced parents, Maya and her brother get sent to Arkansas at ages 4 and 5 to live with their grandma and handicapped uncle. Although life is hard and love not demonstrated, Maya learns much from her grandma and uncle.

### **Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance** – NON-FICTION

Jennifer Armstrong, Simon Boughton (Editor) – (recommended for all levels)

*Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* vividly recreates one of the most extraordinary adventure stories in history. In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and 27 men sailed from England in an attempt to become the first team of explorers to cross the Antarctic continent from one side to the other. Five months later and still 100 miles from land, their ship, *Endurance*, became trapped. In this amazing survival story, Shackleton and five others navigated 800 miles of the treacherous open ocean in a 20-foot boat and then hiked across the unmapped, glacier-strewn interior of South Georgia Island to a whaling station. In August 1916, 19 months after *Endurance* first became icebound, Shackleton led a rescue party back to Elephant Island for his men.