

12th GRADE Reading Greater Lowell Tech. High School

Jazmin's Notebook / Nikki Grimes

Funny, tender, angry, and tough Jazmin's diary entries and occasional poems about growing up in Harlem in the 1960's make us share her struggle to find community and her own space.

The Wreckers / Iain Lawrence

It is dark and stormy night when a merchant ship is lured onto the rocks of the Cornish coast. Part survival story, part historical fiction, this tale, narrated by one of the ship's survivors, is a page-turner.

I Am Mordred: A tale from Camelot / Nancy Springer

Springer humanizes Arthurian arch-villain Mordred in a thoroughly captivating and poignant tale that follows Mordred as he tries to sort out his love-hate feelings for his father.

The Rag and Bone Shop / Robert Cormier

Cormier's (published posthumously, is characteristically dark and thought provoking) Characters include :Trent, an ambitious and renowned interrogator who holds a perfect record wrenching confessionals out of criminals, and 12-year-old Jason Dorrant, suspected of murdering his neighbor, seven-year-old Alicia Bartlett. The killing attracts much publicity plus the attention of a senator. The local police, anxious to solve the case quickly, call on the expertise of Trent to get Jason, the last person seen with the victim, to confess to the crime.

Tell No One / Harlan Coben

After eight years of struggling with grief over his wife's murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail including a secret word only the two of them knew.

The Lords of Discipline / Pat Conroy

Cadets at a southern military academy face hazing, hatred, and prejudice as they confront members of a secret society dedicated to preserving traditions.

And Still We Rise: The Trials and Triumphs of Twelve Gifted Inner-City Students / Corwin Miles

The award-winning reporter for the Los Angeles Times chronicles the incredible challenges faced by high school seniors in a South-Central Los Angeles gifted program.

America: A Novel / E.R. Frank

The enduring love of this foster mother and a dedicated therapist are fifteen-year-old America's only positive life forces in this disturbing powerful story of forgiveness and "against the odds" survival.

All the Pretty Horses / Cormac McCarthy

McCarthy's great epic Border Trilogy whose first novel, All the Pretty Horses, has become McCarthy's most famous. It tells the story of 20th century cowboys. The book examines characters desperately trying to inhabit the cowboy myth and to subscribe to the cowboy code of stoicism.

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich – (recommended for College English)

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

After serving eight years in various prisons and labor camps in Russia, Solzhenitsyn wrote *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. This work was the first public mention of forced collectivization of farms and of forced labor camps in Russia. The novel takes us through a typical day of Ivan Denisovich, a prisoner at a Stalinist labor camp in 1951.

The Bell Jar – (recommended for College English) / Sylvia Plath

The Bell Jar is an autobiographical novel that conforms closely to the events of the author's life. *The Bell Jar* recounts, in slightly fictional form, the events of the summer and autumn after Plath's junior year at Smith College. Psychological treatment and suicide are a large part of the novel's plot.

The Plague – (recommended for College English) / Albert Camus

Throughout his life, Camus was deeply concerned with the problem of human suffering in an indifferent world. In *The Plague*, Camus addresses the collective response to catastrophe when a large city in Algeria is isolated due to an outbreak of the bubonic plague.

In Cold Blood – (recommended for College English) / Truman Capote

Capote based this novel on a small newspaper article describing the murder of a Kansas ranch family of four. Capote became close to the murderers, the townspeople of Holcomb, Kansas and did much research into the police investigation in writing this epic nonfiction novel.

Catch-22 – (recommended for College English) / Joseph Heller

Heller wrote *Catch-22* based on his own Air Force experience. It is a war story that is at once hilarious, grotesque, cynical and stirring. *Catch-22* relies heavily on humor to convey the insanity of war and presenting the horrible meaninglessness of armed conflict.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster – **NON-FICTION** / Jon Krakauer, (Introduction) – (recommended for all levels)

A riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. In March 1996, *Outside* magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead.

Snow in August – **NON-FICTION** / Peter Hamill – (recommended for all levels)

The story of an unlikely friendship and of how the neighborhood reacts to it. For Michael, the rabbi opens a window to ancient learning and lore that rival anything in *Captain Marvel*. For the rabbi, Michael illuminates the everyday mysteries of America, including the strange language of baseball. But like their hero Jackie Robinson, neither can entirely escape from the swirling prejudices of the time. Terrorized by a local gang of anti-Semitic Irish toughs, Michael and the rabbi are caught in an escalating spiral of hate for which there's only one way out – a miracle.