

9th GRADE Reading Greater Lowell Tech. High School

Children of the River / Linda Crew YA Fict

Sundara fled Cambodia with her aunt's family to escape the Khmer Rouge Army when she was thirteen, leaving behind her parents, her brother and sister, and the boy she had loved since she was a child. Now, four years later, she struggles to fit in at her Oregon high school and to be "a good Cambodian girl" at home.

The First Part Last / Angela Johnson

Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy -- impulsive, eager, restless. On his sixteenth birthday, he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia, that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. Suddenly things like school and house parties and hanging with friends no longer seem important as they're replaced by visits to Nia's obstetrician and a social worker who says that the only way for Nia and Bobby to lead a normal life is to put their baby up for adoption.

Miracle's Boys / Jacqueline Woodson Lost

Three brothers who struggle to survive after the death of their mother to diabetes and father to hypothermia. The Bailey brothers face many obstacles and find their hopes and dreams sometimes unreachable. These three NYC street smart teenagers' relationship changes as does their family bond.

Among the Hidden / Margaret Peterson Haddix Cataloging

In a society where family size is strictly limited to two children, Luke is a third child. Living in an attic bedroom to avoid being seen by authorities, Luke peers through an outside vent and observes another "shadow child" hiding in a nearby home, thereby beginning a secret friendship with Jen, who plans to rebel against the government system.

Hush / Jacqueline Woodson

Contemporary fiction. Thirteen-year old Toswiah must leave her town, her friends, even her name behind to begin a new life when her father exposes a crime committed by his fellow police officers.

Quinceañera Means Sweet Fifteen / Veronica Chambers

For Marisol, planning a quinceañera is more like a daydream since she and her single mother have little to spend on an extravagant party. Magda drops their friendship when she takes up with new friends who shoplift and find Marisol uncool. Chambers uses the quinceañera and family traditions to introduce Latin American heritage and the concept of community

The Young Man and the Sea / Rodman Philbrick

12 year old Skiff tries to earn money for his family after his dad dies and takes a dangerous trip to Maine to catch a monster blue-fin tuna.

Shakespeare Bats Clean-Up / Ron Koertge

A 14 year old baseball player is sidelined with mononucleosis, and learns life lessons through poetry.

The Teacher's Funeral / Richard Peck

Humorous tale of 15 year old Russell who dreams of becoming a trainer of harvesters. However, at school his teacher dies and his sister takes over, which begin his worst nightmare.

Travel Team / Mike Lupica

12 year old Danny is not chosen for the basketball team. He later forms a team with other castoffs. Do they have a chance of winning?

The Breadwinner / Deborah Ellis YA Fict

Imagine living in a country in which women and girls are not allowed to leave the house without a man. Imagine having to wear clothes that cover every part of your body, including your face, whenever you go out. This is life in Afghanistan, where the Taliban, members of an extreme religious group, run most of the country. (RL 5; IL 5-8)

Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss and What I Learned / Judd Winick 362.1

In this moving story about tolerance, the author recounts his friendship with Pedro Zamora, an HIV-positive AIDS activist and former star of MTV's The Real World.

The Legend of Bass Reeves / Gary Paulsen J Fict

Born into slavery, Bass Reeves became the most successful US Marshal of the Wild West. Many "heroic lawmen" of the Wild West, familiar to us through television and film, were actually violent scoundrels and outlaws themselves. But of all the sheriffs of the frontier, one man stands out as a true hero: Bass Reeves. He was a black man, born into slavery. And though the laws of his country enslaved him and his mother, when he became a free man he served the law, with such courage and honor that he became a legend.

Dacey's Song / Cynthia Voigt

Realistic portrayal of the adolescent search for identity and independence within a family; learning when to reach out and when to let go; dealing with death; growing up.

All for the Better: A Story of El Barrio (Stories of America) / Nicholas Mohr, Rudy Gutierrez (Illustrator)

All for the Better tells the story of how one caring person can make a difference. In 1933, the Great Depression had hit Puerto Rico hard as it had hit the United States. Evelina Lopez, then 11, left her mother and sisters to live with an aunt in New York City. Her journey to Spanish Harlem, El Barrio, and the life that followed there make up this simple biography.

Laughing Boy / Oliver La Farge Lost

The Pulitzer Prize winning novel of Laughing Boy and Slim Girl, two young Navajos struggling to maintain their heritage.

The LearningTree / Gordon Parks out

A powerfully and sensitively written story of a thirteen-year-old black boy.

Imitate the Tiger / Jan Cheripko don't own

Chris Serbo looks for salvation in football and drinking, but neither will fill the emptiness inside. Not until he finds himself in danger on a lonely road does he come face-to-face with the person he has become.

Falling Leaves / Yen Mah B Mah

Adeline Yen Mah, the youngest daughter of an affluent Chinese family endured a childhood of appalling emotional abuse. Her struggles reveal the harsh realities of growing up female in twentieth-century China.

Black Like Me / John Griffin – (recommended for College English) 301.45 / Gri
In the deep south of the 1950s, journalist John Griffin decided to cross the color line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. His audacious, still chillingly relevant eyewitness history is a work about race and humanity – that in this new millennium still has something important to say to every American.

The House of Seven Gables / Nathaniel Hawthorne – (recommended for College English)
A darkly tragic novel about a wealthy and hypocritical judge and the misfortunes he causes.

The Last of the Mohicans / James Fenimore Cooper – (recommended for College English)
Fict Cooper's most famous novel concerning the desperate struggle of the Native Americans against the pressures and restrictions of white civilization.

Greatest: Muhammad Ali – **NON-FICTION** / Walter Dean Myers – (recommended for all levels) YA B / Ali
Myers carefully crafts Ali's tale from his Clay family roots in Louisville, Kentucky, to his struggles today with Parkinson Disease. Myers weaves the events of Ali's personal life with those occurring in our country during the twentieth century.

Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley – **NON-FICTION** / Sally W. Walker – (recommended for all levels)
This view of the Civil War attempts to solve the mysteries of H.L. Hurley.