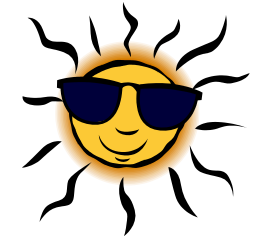


Summer Reading Program Book List

2010



This list contains book choices which were compiled after thoughtful consideration and review of titles from two prominent Illinois reading lists for young adults. Parent involvement in student book selection is strongly encouraged to ensure that choices are the best possible fit for the student reader.

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, The

Sherman Alexie Grades 7-10, Booklist Abe Lincoln List

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. www.fallsapart.com

After

Amy Efav Grades 9-12, Booklist Read for a Lifetime List

Fifteen-year-old Devon Davenport lies on the sofa mindlessly watching morning TV. She is in physical pain, and her only recourse is to mentally disconnect. Suddenly her life turns upside down and she is left wondering what happened. Before that morning, these were the words most often used to describe straight-A student and star soccer player Devon Davenport: responsible, hardworking, mature. But all that changes when the police find Devon home sick from school as they investigate the case of an abandoned baby. Soon the connection is made. <http://amyefaw.com/>

Along for the Ride

Sarah Dessen Grades 9-12, Booklist Read for a Lifetime List

Auden, 18 and a remarkably smart girl whose parents divorced when she was younger after years of bickering, has become an insomniac, avoiding her problems by staying awake and studying at a nearby cafe. Auden organized her life around school. She could answer any educational question, yet barely had any friends and missed out on every important childhood landmark – going to prom, bowling, and learning to ride a bike. After a strangely inspirational message from her older brother Hollis, Auden decides to spend the summer before her freshman year of college in Colby with her father where she meets the mysterious Eli who helps her rebuild her past. <http://www.sarahdessen.com/>

Angry Management

Chris Crutcher Grades 9-12, Booklist

"The teens in Mr. Nakatani's counseling group have many reasons to be angry. Sarah Byrnes's face is permanently scarred. Angus Bethune's family is the object of town gossip. Montana West's stepparents are abandoning her stepsister just like they almost abandoned her. Marcus James is black and gay in a high school that is all white. Anger threatens to control the lives of each of these teens, but rather than have them hide their anger, Nak encourages them to let it all out."

www.harpercollinschildrens.com

Blind Side, The

Michael Lewis Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

The young man at the center of this extraordinary and moving story will one day be among the most highly paid athletes in the National Football League. When we first meet Michael Oher, he is one of thirteen children born to a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or any of the things a child might learn in school such as how to read or write, nor has he ever touched a football. What changes? Michael turns out to be the priceless combination of size, speed, and agility necessary to guard the quarterback's greatest vulnerability: his blind side. <http://books.wwnorton.com>

Book of a Thousand Days

Shannon Bloombsbury Hale Grades 7-10, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment. As food runs low and the days go from broiling hot to freezing cold, it is all Dashti can do to keep them fed and comfortable. But the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—brings both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make the desperate choices of a girl whose life is worth more than she knows. www.squeetus.com

Boot Camp

Todd Strasser Grades 7-10, Booklist [Abe Lincoln List](#)

In this novel ripped from the headlines, fifteen-year-old Garrett is kidnapped and sent to a disciplinary boot camp, where he is subjected to physical and psychological abuse. www.toddstrasser.com

Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The

John Boyne Grades 7-10, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Set in 1942 Berlin, the story is told through the eyes of Bruno, a naive nine-year-old raised in a privileged household by strict parents whose expectations included good manners and unquestioning respect for parental authority. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates for the family's sudden move from Berlin to a place called Out-With in Poland. There, not 50 feet away, a high wire fence surrounds a huge dirt area of low huts and large square buildings. From his bedroom window, Bruno can see hundreds (maybe thousands) of people wearing striped pajamas and caps, and something makes him feel very cold and unsafe. His father must never learn about the friendship that follows. www.johnboyne.com

Catcher in the Rye

J.D. Salinger Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Holden Caulfield is a sixteen-year-old prep school student who has failed out of school two weeks before Christmas. Several days before he's expected home for Christmas vacation, he leaves school planning to spend some time on his own in New York City, where he lives. Though Holden is friendly with many people at school, and though he has several friends in New York, he is constantly lonesome and in need of someone who will sympathize with his feelings of alienation. Holden decides the only solution to his overwhelming problem is to run away and establish a new identity as a deaf-mute who will not need to communicate with anyone.

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith

Deborah Heiligman Grades 8-12, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Charles Darwin is trying to make a decision. As much as Darwin is interested in wedded life, he is afraid that family life will take him away from the revolutionary work he is doing on the evolution of species. However, he finds the perfect mate in his first-cousin Emma, who becomes his comforter, editor, mother of his 10 children, and sparring partner. Although highly congenial, Charles and Emma were on opposite sides when it came to the role of God in creation. Heiligman uses the Darwin family letters and papers to craft a full-bodied look at the personal influences that shaped Charles' life as he worked mightily to shape his theories. <http://www.deborahheiligman.com/>



Chasing Lincoln's Killer

James L. Swanson Grades 7-12, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the man hunters, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* is a fast-paced account of Lincoln's assassination and the twelve-day search for his killer. As President Lincoln delivers victory speeches in April 1865, an enraged John Wilkes Booth vows death stating, "Now, by God, I'll put him through." While Lincoln lays dying, Booth's accomplices clumsily attempt to kill Secretary of State William H. Seward, and Booth talks his way past a guard meant to bar him from crossing a bridge into Maryland. In focusing on Booth, the author reveals the depth of divisions in the nation just after the war, the disorder within the government, and the challenges ahead. <http://bookwizard.scholastic.com>

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice

Phillip Hoose Grades 7-12, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

In Montgomery, AL., March 1955, fifteen-year-old Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. She was arrested, and although she received some help from local civil rights leaders, they decided that the sometimes-volatile teen was not suitable to be the public face of a mass protest. Nine months later, Rosa Parks sparked the famous bus boycott. Colvin was left with a police record and soon faced the additional problems of an unwed pregnancy and expulsion from school. In spite of those troubles, she consented to be named as a plaintiff in the court case that eventually integrated Montgomery's buses. Thus Colvin played a central role in the city's civil rights drama, but her story has been largely lost to history. Hoose, who had been curious about the often-unidentified teen who first defied bus segregation, persuaded her to tell her story. <http://www.philliphoose.com/>

Elsewhere

Gabrielle Zevin Grades 7-10, *School Library Journal* [Abe Lincoln List](#)

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live". www.memoirsofa.com

Evermore: The Immortals

Alyson Noel Grades 8-10, Booklist [Abe Lincoln List](#)

Since the car accident that claimed the lives of her family, sixteen-year-old Ever can see auras and hear people's thoughts, and she goes out of her way to hide from other people until she meets Damen, another psychic teenager who is hiding even more mystery. www.alysonnoel.com

Graceling

Kristin Cashore Grades 9-12, Booklist [Abe Lincoln List](#) & [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Graceling takes readers inside the world of Katsa, a warrior-girl in her late teens with one blue eye and one green eye. This gives her haunting beauty, but also marks her as a Graceling. Gracelings are beings with special talents—swimming, storytelling, dancing. Katsa's Grace is considered more useful: her ability to fight (and kill, if she wanted to) is unequalled in the seven kingdoms. Forced to act as a henchman for a manipulative king, Katsa channels her guilt by forming a secret council of like-minded citizens who carry out secret missions to promote justice over cruelty and abuses of power. <http://kristincashore.blogspot.com/>

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Shaffer Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends—and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society was born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island. Captivated by their stories, Juliet sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever. <http://www.randomhouse.com/rhpg/guernsey/>



Half Broke Horses

Jeannette Walls Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

For the first 10 years of her life, Lily Casey Smith, the narrator of this true-life novel by her granddaughter, Walls, lived in a dirt dugout in west Texas. Lily becomes a teacher at age 15 in a remote frontier town she reaches after a solo ride lasting 28 days. Marriage to a bigamist almost destroys her spirit, but later she weds again. Lily is a spirited heroine, fiercely outspoken against hypocrisy and prejudice. She's a rodeo rider, fearless breaker of horses, and a ruthless poker player.

<http://books.simonandschuster.com>

Help, The

Kathryn Stockett Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

The Help is set during the blossoming civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan is just home from college in 1962, and, anxious to become a writer, is advised to hone her chops by writing about what disturbs her. The budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women, enlisting the help of Aibileen, a maid who's raised 17 children, and Aibileen's best friend Minny, who's found herself unemployed more than a few times after mouthing off to her white employers. The book Skeeter puts together based on their stories is scathing and shocking, bringing pride and hope to the black community, while giving Skeeter the courage to break down her personal boundaries and pursue her dreams. <http://www.kathrynstockett.com/>

House Rules: A Memoir

Rachel Sontag Adult Title, YA Interest [Abe Lincoln List](#)

This memoir races the author's journey of recovery and self discovery after a childhood marked by her mentally ill father, a respected suburban doctor who hid from the outside world an obsessive need for control that caused him to torture his wife and children about the most minute details of their lives.

www.rachelsontag.com

If I Stay

Gayle Forman Grades 10-12, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

When snow cancels school, Mia and her family pile into their beat-up station wagon for a drive. Unlike most seventeen-year-olds, Mia is secretly enjoying hanging out with her quirky family until an oncoming driver shatters their lives, leaving the gravely injured Mia with the ultimate decision: Should she stay or go? She is standing outside her body beside their mangled Buick and her parents' corpses, watching herself and her little brother being tended by paramedics. While in a coma, Mia reflects on the past and tries to decide whether to fight or to live. <http://www.gayleforman.com/>

Jerk, California

Jonathan Friesen Grades 10-12, Booklist [Abe Lincoln List](#)

Plagued by Tourette's syndrome and a stepfather who despises him, Sam meets an old man in his small Minnesota town who sends him on a road trip designed to help him discover the truth about his life. www.jonathanfriesen.com

Just Listen

Sarah Dessen Grades 8-11, Booklist [Abe Lincoln List](#)

Suddenly unpopular sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life. www.sarahdessen.com

King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography

Chris Crutcher Grades 8-12, Booklist

"In *King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography*, Crutcher writes about his life as a dateless, broken-toothed, scabbed-over, God-fearing dweeb, and once readers have contemplated his ascension to the buckskin-upholstered throne of the King of the Mild Frontier, they will close their eyes, close this book and hold it to their chest, and say, 'I, too, can be an author.'" www.harpercollins.com



Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians), The

Rick Riordan Grades 6–9, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

At the outset of this fast-paced tale it would seem that Percy Jackson is just another New York kid diagnosed with ADHD, who has good intentions, a nasty stepfather, and a long line of schools that have rejected him. Percy soon learns that he's the half-blood offspring of one of the Greek gods. Mount Olympus, in modern times, has migrated to the 600th floor of the Empire State Building (the center of Western civilization) while the door to Hades can be found at DOA Recording Studio, somewhere in LA. With his new friends, a disguised satyr, and the half-blood daughter of Athena, Percy sets out across the country to rectify a feud between Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon. <http://www.rickriordan.com/>

Marcelo in the Real World

Francisco X Stork Grades 9–12, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Seventeen-year-old Marcelo Sandoval harbors an obsession with religion, hears internal music, and sleeps in a tree house, all part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience "the real world." There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. He learns about competition and jealousy, anger, and desire. But it's a picture he finds in a file, a picture of a girl with half a face, that truly connects him with the real world. <http://www.franciscostork.com/>

Monstrumologist

Rick Yancey Grades 9–12, Booklist [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Will Henry is the twelve-year-old apprentice to Pellinore Warthrop, a brilliant and self-absorbed monstrumologist—a scientist who studies, and on occasion kills, monsters in New England during the late 1800s. Found in 2007 amid the personal effects of the recently deceased Will (at age 131), the memoir opens as a corpse is delivered to Warthrop by a grave robber one night in 1888. What appears to be a horrific desecration of the body foreshadows a plague of headless, man-eating anthropophagi. <http://www.rickyancey.com/>

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

Elizabeth Bennet is a country gentleman's daughter in 19th Century England. She is one of five daughters, a plight that her father bears as best he can with common sense and a general disinterest in the silliness of his daughters. Elizabeth is his favorite because of her level-headed approach to life when his own wife's greatest concern is getting her daughters married off to well-established gentlemen. Only Jane, Elizabeth's older sister, is nearly as sensible and practical as Elizabeth, but Jane is also the beauty of the family, and therefore, Mrs. Bennet's highest hope for a good match. Mr. Bingley and Jane like each other almost immediately, but the spirited Elizabeth and wealthy Mr. Darcy dislike each other at first sight, and each must contend with their pride and prejudices while Elizabeth's mother plots economically advantageous marriages for all her daughters.

Right Behind You

Gail Giles Grades 8–11, Booklist [Abe Lincoln List](#)

After spending over four years in a mental institution for murdering a friend in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Kip begins a completely new life under a different name in Indiana with his father and stepmother, but Kip has trouble fitting in and finds there are still problems to deal with from his childhood. www.galegiles.com

Road, The

Cormac McCarthy Adult Title, YA Interest [Read for a Lifetime List](#)

A postapocalyptic tour de force leaves cities and forests burned, birds and fish dead, and the earth shrouded in gray clouds of ash. In this landscape, an unnamed man and his young son journey down a road to get to the sea. Beyond the ever-present possibility of starvation lies the threat of roving bands of cannibalistic thugs. The man assures his son that they are "good guys," but from the way his father treats other stray survivors, the boy sees that his father has turned into an amoral survivalist, tenuously attached to the morality of the past by his fierce love for his son. <http://www.cormacmccarthy.com/>



Rucker Park Setup

Paul Volponi Grades 9-12, *School Library Journal* Abe Lincoln List

While playing in a crucial basketball game on the very court where his best friend was murdered, Mackey tries to come to terms with his own part in that murder and decide whether to maintain his silence or tell J.R.'s father and the police what really happened. www.paulvolponibooks.com

Shiver

Maggie Stiefvater Grades 9-12, Booklist Read for a Lifetime List

Grace, 17, loves the peace and tranquility of the woods behind her home where, during the cold winter months, she gets to see her wolf—the one with the yellow eyes. Over the ensuing years, he has returned each season, watching her as if longing for something to happen. When a teen is killed by wolves, a hunting party decides to retaliate. Grace races through the woods and discovers what she believe is her wolf in human form. Fate has finally brought Sam and Grace together, and as their love grows and intensifies, so does the reality of what awaits them. <http://www.maggiestiefvater.com/>

Swim the Fly

Don Calme Grades 9-12, Booklist Read for a Lifetime List

Three 15-year-old buddies make a pact to see a naked girl before the summer is over and in the process mire themselves in increasing trouble and constant humiliation. All three are on the summer swim team, and, in a desperate attempt to impress the superhot new girl, Matt agrees to swim the dreaded butterfly at championships, despite the fact that he can barely tread water. His pals' wacky schemes to catch a glimpse of bare skin, which includes dressing up like girls and entering a women's locker room, would've worked if it weren't for the accidental dose of laxative . . . well, you get the idea. <http://www.doncalame.com/>

Twisted

Laurie Halse Anderson Grades 9-12, *School Library Journal* Abe Lincoln List

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attention of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts. www.writerlady.com

Unwind

Neal Shusterman Grades 6-9, Booklist Abe Lincoln List

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives. www.storyman.com

Wake

Lisa McMann Grades 7-12, *School Library Journal* Abe Lincoln List

Ever since she was eight years old, high school student Janie Hannagan has been uncontrollably drawn into other people's dreams, but it is not until she befriends an elderly nursing home patient and becomes involved with an enigmatic fellow student that she discovers her true power. <http://lisamcmann.com>

Wintergirls

Laurie Halse Anderson Grades 9-12, Booklist Read for a Lifetime List

Lia and Cassie had been best friends since elementary school, and each developed her own style of eating disorder that leads to disaster. Now 18, they are no longer friends. Despite their estrangement, Cassie calls Lia 33 times on the night of her death, and Lia never answers. As events play out, Lia's guilt, her need to be thin, and her fight for acceptance unravel in an almost poetic stream of consciousness in this startlingly crisp and pitch-perfect first-person narrative. www.writerlady.com/



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As stated in the ALA's Library Bill of Rights, only parents/guardians maintain the right and responsibility to restrict their student's access to library resources, including inter-library loan selections (Section 53.1.4). We encourage parents/guardians to be actively aware of their student's resource selections.



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The Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award <http://www.islma.org/lincoln.htm>