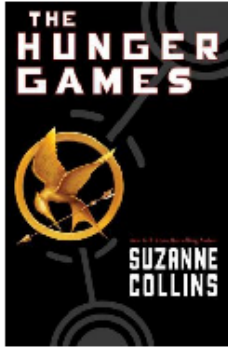




The Complete Guide
To
Successful
Summer Reading
Written by
West Potomac High School
Students



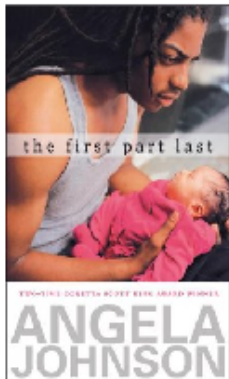


Hunger Games Trilogy (2008)

[Suzanne Collins](#) (Author)


Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games Trilogy takes place in the country once known as the United States. In recent years, however, the districts revolted and formed 12 powerful regions governed by one entity. Each year, a teenage girl and boy from each district must meet in a designated area to accept their fates as contestants on a reality game show. The premise of the show is simple: the winner gets to live and the losers die. When 16-year-old Katniss Evergreen's younger sister receives her invitation to be on the show, Katniss decides to go in her place. Katniss quickly befriends other girls and boys on the cast of *The Hunger Games*, which only makes it harder to say goodbye when their time comes.

Reading Tip: “The key to reading is... find a book that you would like to read. Ask somebody, “what’s a good book?” (Zanasha Findley).



The First Part Last (2003)

[Angela Johnson](#) (Author)

 Award Winner

Then: friends, basketball, video games, pizza. Now: late nights, early mornings, strained friendships, postponed college plans. But, as this young adult novel makes clear, 16-year-old Bobby Morris' new life as a father also includes love for his baby daughter Feather, an overwhelming sense of responsibility, and faith that he's doing the right thing. Bobby is a perceptive, middle-class, city kid with an artistic bent and decent family of his own. He narrates the book, telling about his girlfriend Nia's pregnancy (the initial shock, doctor visits, and arguments for adoption presented to the young couple), plus the challenges of parenting. His narrative moves around in time, capturing both dialogue and his own thoughts with memorable words (author Angela Johnson is a poet), and finally revealing the reason Feather's mother has disappeared from the picture.

Please [Login](#) to Rate

Community Rating ★★★★★



The Last Thing I Remember (2009)

[Andrew Klavan](#) (Author)

Charlie West doesn't believe this can really be happening. The 17-year old karate black belt has just woken up strapped to a chair. Bloodied and bruised, his whole body is in pain. He doesn't recognize the room he's in or the strange voice in the hall that just ordered that he be killed. He has no idea where he is or how he got here. The last thing he can recall is living a normal teenage life—studying for school, asking out beautiful girls, planning to be a pilot for the Air Force, and working on his karate skills. How much time has passed since then? Why is he here? How did he get here? Who has he become? And most importantly, how will he manage to get out of this room alive? Part of the Homelander series, *The Last Thing I Remember* is a young adult novel filled with suspense, intrigue, and action.

“I like reading because some books can be interesting” (Kelly Do).



Grade 10



Please [Login](#) to Rate

Community Rating ★★★★★

[Write a Review](#) »

Trickster's Choice (2003)

[Tamora Pierce \(Author\)](#)

Aly doesn't want to be her mother, and that shouldn't be a crime, but when your mother is Alanna the Lioness, the first lady knight in the kingdom, people just naturally have expectations, especially mothers. Aly's talents are much more like her father's, and although Aly thinks it's obvious, neither of her parents will even consider letting her work as a professional spy. After yet another uncomfortable confrontation with her mother, Aly takes off alone in her sailboat, hoping that when she returns, things will be different. Fate doesn't arrange events for her convenience for Aly is almost immediately captured by pirates and sold into slavery. Her talents give her confidence that she can soon escape, so she bides her time. On the Copper Isles she becomes the property of the noble Balitangs where she's puzzled by the undercurrents of politics and plots surrounding them. Just as Aly is about to escape, the trickster god of the isles, Kyprioth, appears. It seems the god would like to make a wager with Aly if she will keep the Balitang girls alive through the summer, he will help her return home. Since Aly's plans go no further than escape, she decides to accept the god's offer. (446 pages)

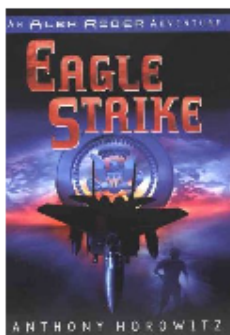
“I read because, I LOVE it!

I always turn to books in my spare time,

or when I am bored or upset.



Reading calms down” (Madeleine Little).

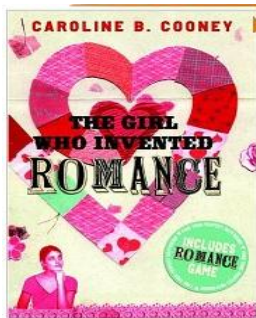


Eagle Strike (2004)

[Anthony Horowitz \(Author\)](#)

Vacationing in the south of France with his girlfriend Sabina, Alex looks up from the beach and spots a person he knows-Yassen Gregorovich, a known assassin. Following him, Alex can't figure out why he's in town, but knows Yassen is up to no good. When Alex and Sabina return home that afternoon, he sees Yassen's work-the remains of Sabina's home, still smoking. Sabina's father has been seriously injured, and Alex feels guilty, thinking that he was the intended target. As Alex later discovers, Yassen is after Sabina's father because of an article he's writing about the celebrity Damian Cray. Suddenly Alex is off on his fourth adventure, using all the tricks and gadgets at his command to halt a madman.

“I like the author, Anthony Horowitz. He is a good writer. His stories draw you into the story because they are suspenseful and full of adventure” (Evans LaBossiere).



The Girl Who Invented Romance (1988)

[Caroline B. Cooney \(Author\)](#)

In response to a sociology assignment, Kelly decides to invent a game about which she thinks she knows nothing--romance. As she sets up her board game and makes rules, she realizes the rules not only change constantly but differ among the players. She observes her family and friends, incorporates everything into a successful board game and even "wins" a boyfriend by the end of the end of the book.



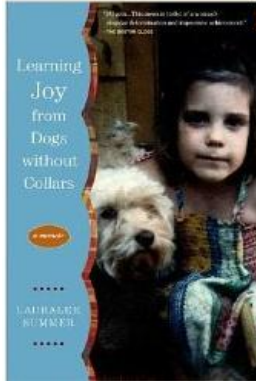
Keeping the Moon (1999)

[Sarah Dessen \(Author\)](#)

Fifteen-year-old Colie Sparks and her mother Katherine ("Kiki") used to be comfortably overweight. Now Kiki is lean, trim, the star of a dozen aerobics infomercials, and sponsor of hundreds of fitness products. Colie is depressed when Kiki leaves for the summer to tour Europe, dumping Colie with her aunt Mira in the sleepy town of Colby, North Carolina. Colie knows that the summer is going to be awful, but soon she realizes that Mira is very interesting, and pretty soon she meets some crazy, amazing friends. Pretty Colie stops thinking of herself as the chubby, neglected, loser daughter of a superstar, and starts to see herself in a different way.



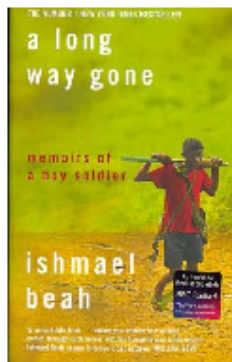
“There’s nothing better than sitting on the beach, listening to the waves, screaming at my kid and reading a good book” (Ms. Kongolo).



Learning Joy from Dogs Without Collars (2003)

[Lauralee Summer \(Author\)](#)

Summer, 25, is a Harvard grad who grew up sometimes homeless and often on welfare. Her single mother seems to have been a free spirit with the best of intentions but with a propensity to be tossed about by fate or the consequences of her own failings. Needing a "vacation" from her four children, she dropped them off with her ex-husband with a note saying she'd be back in a week. Upon her return, she was stunned to learn she had lost custody, and that only the youngest child wanted to stay with her. By then, she was pregnant with Summer, by a man whom the author wouldn't meet until she was 19. This is a story of hope, however. Summer's experiences in shelters, of feeling utter panic and anxiety, were counterbalanced by the real love she shared with her mother, by her relationship with an excellent teacher, and by having joined the wrestling team.



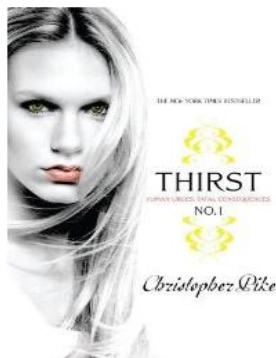
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier (2007)

[Ishmael Beah \(Author\)](#)

Award Winner

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah is a first-hand account of the life of a child who survived a brutal civil war in West Africa. At the age of 12, Beah's childhood was destroyed when his family was killed in an attack on his village. After some time trying to survive as a refugee, Beah joined the army, where he was taught to kill and was given ready access to cocaine. Addicted to the killing and the drugs, he spent three years in the army until he was placed in a rehabilitation center supported by UNICEF. He became an advocate and spokesperson for the center, and eventually fled Sierra Leone for the United States.

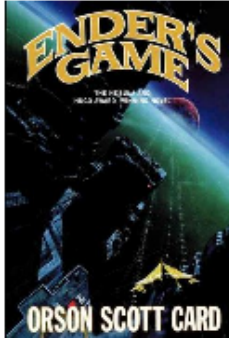
Reading Tip: Read in a quiet place and give yourself time to enjoy the book...even if you have to read the same paragraph a few times (Rainy Hausen).



Thirst (2009)


Christopher Pike

As to blood -- ah, blood, the whole subject fascinates me. I do like that as well, warm and dripping, when I am thirsty. And I am often thirsty....Alisa has been in control of her urges for the five thousand years she has been a vampire. She feeds but does not kill, and she lives her life on the fringe to maintain her secret. But when her creator returns to hunt her, she must break her own rules in order to survive. Her quest leads her to Ray. He is the only person who can help her; he also has every reason to fear her. Alisa must get closer to him to ensure her immortality. But as she begins to fall in love with Ray, suddenly there is more at stake than her own life....



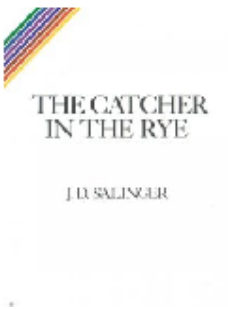
Ender's Game (1985)

[Orson Scott Card \(Author\)](#)

 Award Winner

In order to combat a hostile race of aliens nicknamed the Buggers, Earth's military leaders develop a Battle School for gifted children. Hoping to produce the next military genius, the instructors at the school train children as young as six by conducting war games that simulate real battles. Ender Wiggin is their best student and only hope for victory over the Buggers.

“The Ender’s Game Series is the ULTIMATE!!!”



The Catcher in the Rye (1951)

[J.D. Salinger \(Author\)](#)

After he is expelled from his third private school, Holden Caulfield decides to run away to Manhattan to wait until the trouble blows over with his parents. He is also running away from what he thinks is the phoniness of the world in general. But events in Manhattan only strengthen his disgust and sense of alienation. His only confidant turns out to be his sister Phoebe, whom he sneaks back to his parents' home to see. Holden decides to head "West," but this is complicated by Phoebe's attempt to join him.

“J.D. Salinger was an excellent writer and Holden Caulfield is one messed up kid” (Jenna Van Dyck).



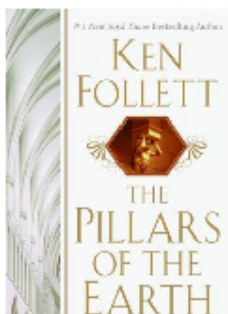
The Last King of Scotland (1998)

[Giles Foden \(Author\)](#)

 Award Winner

Nicholas Garrigan is a young Scottish physician who accepts a job in a remote region of Uganda in the early 1970s, just as Idi Amin takes power through a military coup. Garrigan comes into contact with Amin when he tends to the dictator's minor injuries after a car accident. Several months later, Amin names him as his personal physician. The novel focuses on the conflicting loyalties and difficult decisions the doctor faces as he is drawn into the inner circles of one of the most brutal regimes in history. While his own country attempts to wrest Amin from power and tries to enlist Garrigan in a plot to murder his patient, Garrigan cannot bring himself to betray his oath. A more troubling dilemma, though, is that Garrigan finds he truly likes Amin as a person.

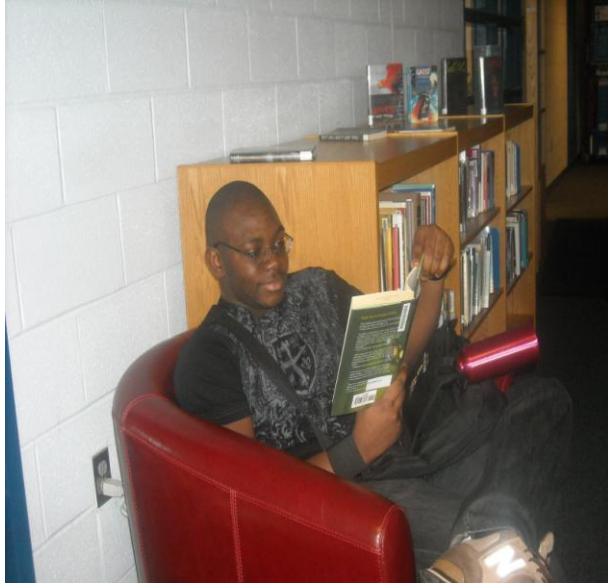
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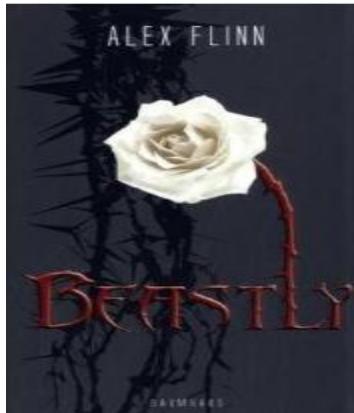
The Pillars of the Earth (1989)

[Ken Follett \(Author\)](#)

Philip, a pious priest, and Tom, an honest craftsman, are united in their dream of building a cathedral during the Middle Ages. This arduous task stretches over a fifty-year span as these two men overcome church politics, a vengeful landowner, lack of money and a double-crossing monk. Even the death of Tom doesn't halt construction as his stepson assumes his responsibility in this compelling historical novel.



“Reading can take you places that you have not gone and can prepare you for places that you will go”
(Mr. Moore)

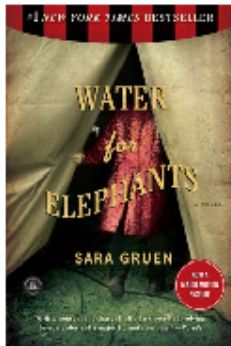


Beastly (1992)

Alex Finn

In the beginning the main character, Kyle, is selfish and rude. He could care less about anyone who looks ugly or unappealing. When a girl tells him at the dance that she had made a decision, he worried about it and later on that night, he became something totally opposite of his looks. He became scared and helpless...

“I liked this book because it was kind of like 'Beauty and the Beast.' Now it's turned into a movie!” (Zainab Mujahid).



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Community Rating ★★★★★

Water for Elephants (2006)

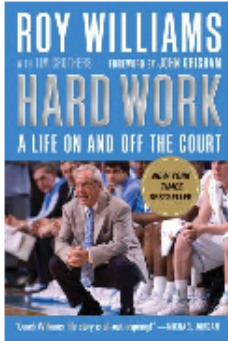
[Sara Gruen](#) (Author)

Award Winner

Jacob Jankowski is a student at Cornell University with a promising future in veterinary medicine. That all changes when his parents are killed in a car accident. Grieving and unable to pay his college tuition, Jacob leaves school and joins the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a traveling circus. Jacob's job is to care for the animals in the circus menagerie, a task made more difficult by the abuses heaped upon the creatures by the circus's boss, August. Jacob forms a close relationship with an elephant, Rosie, whom he strives to protect from August. He also falls in love with August's lovely, abused wife Marlena. This atmospheric tale is based on actual circus stories and is documented with historical circus photographs.

“Read like you are looking at a movie. Try to imagine the characters and the setting” (Rebeca Diaz).

Mr. Johnson's favorite book is...

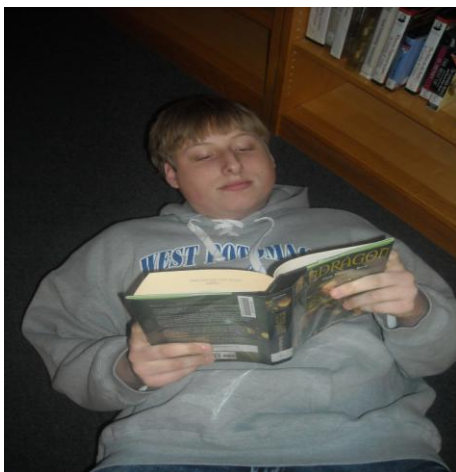


Hard Work: My Life On and Off the Court (2009)

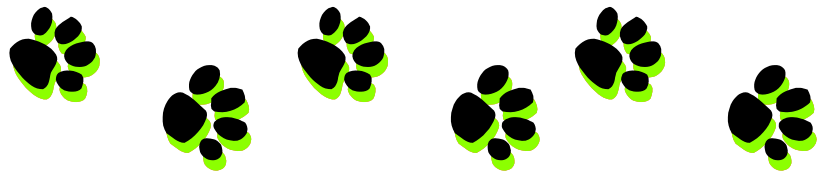
Roy Williams (American basketball coach) (Author)

Hard Work: A Life On and Off the Court explores the professional career of Roy Williams, head coach for the University of North Carolina (UNC) Tar Heels men's basketball team. Williams paid for his education at the University of North Carolina by officiating intramural sports at the university. His first job on the coaching staff was selling calendars and delivering videotapes to television stations. He spent 15 years as the head coach at the University of Kansas and then returned to UNC, where he continues to coach today. Williams was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007 and has had more wins and NCAA Tournament victories than any other basketball coach in the United States.

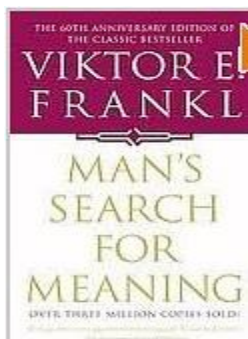
Reading Tip- If you are having trouble reading, try listening to the audio book.



“Just kick back and read.”



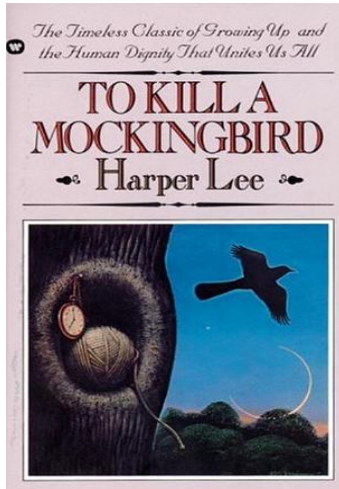
Dr. Turner's favorite book is...



Man's Search for Meaning

Viktor E. Frankl The most influential works of psychiatric literature since Freud. The book begins with a lengthy, austere, and deeply moving personal essay about Frankl's imprisonment in Auschwitz and other concentration camps for five years, and his struggle during this time to find reasons to live. The second part of the book, called "Logotherapy in a Nutshell," describes the psychotherapeutic method that Frankl pioneered as a result of his experiences in the concentration camps. Freud believed that sexual instincts and urges were the driving force of humanity's life; Frankl, by contrast, believes that man's deepest desire is to search for meaning and purpose. Frankl's logotherapy, therefore, is much more compatible with Western religions than Freudian psychotherapy. This is a fascinating, sophisticated, and very human book. At times, Frankl's personal and professional discourses merge into a style of tremendous power. "Our generation is realistic, for we have come to know man as he really is," Frankl writes. "After all, man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz; however, he is also that being who entered those gas chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or the Shema Yisrael on his lips."

“Reading isn’t boring, if you find something you’re interested in reading. You have to look for a good book” (Aman Habte).

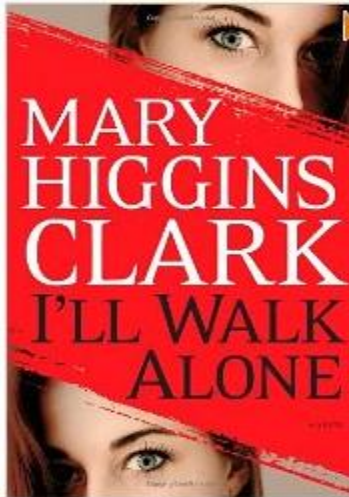
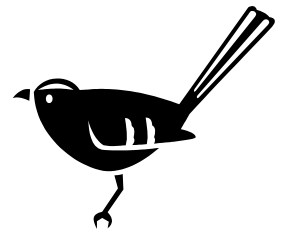


To Kill a Mockingbird (1961)

Harper Lee

When Atticus Finch defends a black man accused of raping a white woman, he and his children Jem and Scout become the center of attacks in their town. Despite Atticus' defense of his client Tom Robinson, Tom is found guilty by an all white jury. The victim's father threatens Atticus and his children, but a stranger intervenes. The children learn more about their father that summer and befriend the mysterious recluse Boo Radley. Harper Lee won a Pulitzer prize for this, her only novel, in 1961.

“To Kill a Mockingbird is a book for all times and all seasons”
(Mr. Kamar)



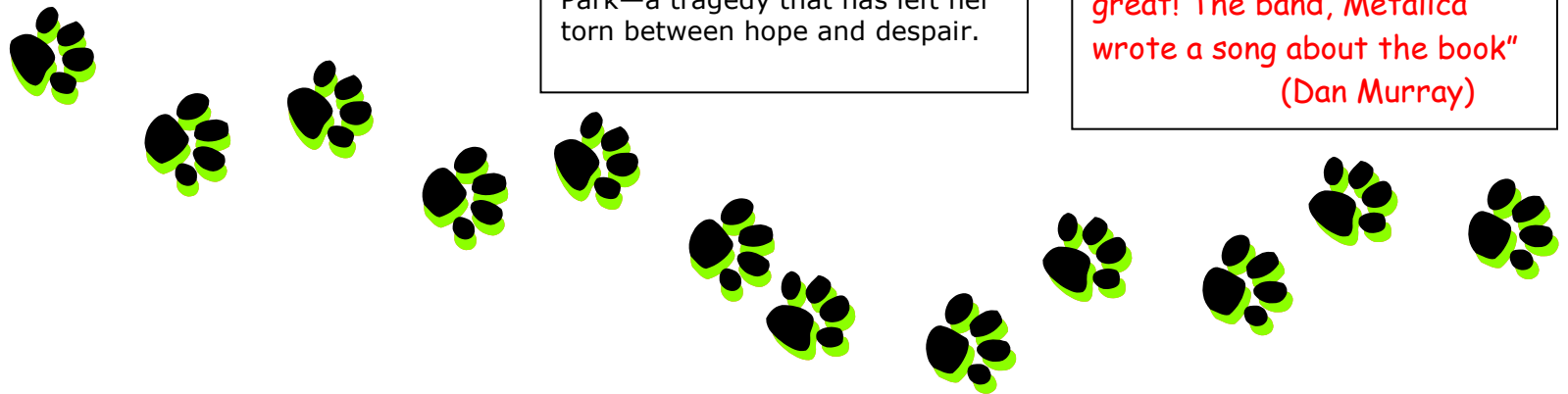
In *I'll Walk Alone*, Alexandra “Zan” Moreland, a gifted, beautiful interior designer on the threshold of a successful Manhattan career, is terrified to discover that somebody is not only using her credit cards and manipulating her financial accounts to bankrupt her and destroy her reputation, but may also be impersonating her in a scheme that may involve the much more brutal crimes of kidnapping and murder. Zan is already haunted by the disappearance of her own son, Matthew, kidnapped in broad daylight two years ago in Central Park—a tragedy that has left her torn between hope and despair.

Johnny Got His Gun (1939)

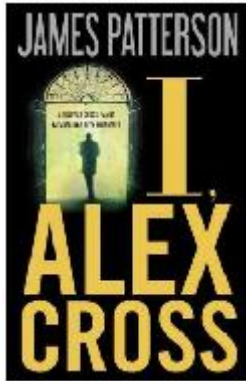
Dalton Trumbo (Author)

Johnny Got His Gun is a candid and emotional novel about war. The best-selling novel, originally released in 1939, sheds light on the horrific nature of war. Joe Bonham, an American soldier, is tragically wounded during his service in World War I. Horribly disfigured and struggling to make sense of his new lot in life, Joe reminisces on his life thus far. Bouncing back and forth between the past and present, *Johnny Got His Gun* tells the heartbreaking and raw story of one man's devastating experience serving his country and the disastrous consequences he faced as a result.

“I really like the message and the ending of the book is great! The band, Metallica wrote a song about the book”
(Dan Murray)



"I love anything written by James Patterson. I love reading the "I, Alex" Series because the stories are well written and full of suspense. I also love Patterson because he is a family man" (Debi Rife).



I, Alex Cross (2009)

[James Patterson \(American novelist\) \(Author\)](#)

In *I, Alex Cross*, a novel by James Patterson, detective Alex Cross is horrified to learn that his niece has been murdered. He and his girlfriend Brianna Stone, who is also a detective, vow that they will find the killer. Soon, though, they learn that Alex's niece was involved in a very dangerous and powerful group in Washington, with ties all over the world. The group does not want their secrets exposed and will do just about anything to prevent it. The evidence continues to mount, and Cross finds himself getting closer to the truth as well as closer to danger every minute.

"The Pact" was a good book about three guys who worked hard to overcome the struggles in their lives. In the end, they all became doctors" (Vida Krampah).

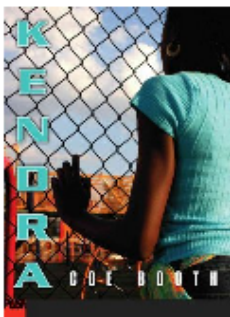


We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success (2005)

[Sampson Davis \(Author\)](#)

[George Jenkins \(American dentist\) \(Author\)](#)

We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and author Sharon Draper is the story of how three friends helped each other find success. Davis, Jenkins, and Hunt met each other in high school and made a pact that they would leave their poor neighborhood and attend medical school. The book chronicles their childhoods and the challenges they had to overcome to reach their goals. The book also discusses the friends' experiences in college, in medical school, and in their careers. This volume for young adults is meant to encourage teens in similar situations to make good decisions and find success.



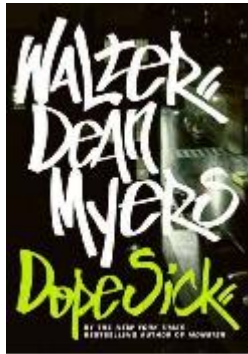
Kendra (2008)

[Coe Booth \(Author\)](#)

Kendra's mother, Renee, was only fourteen years old when she got pregnant with Kendra. Knowing that she wouldn't make a suitable mother for her child, Renee decided to give her daughter to her mother, who agreed to care for Kendra until Renee could build a life for them. Over time, Renee finished school and went on to college and graduate school. Now, Kendra is fourteen, the same age that Renee was when she gave birth to Kendra. While Kendra looks like Renee and has the same curiosities that caused her mother trouble, Kendra has convinced herself that she is not going to make the same mistakes. Kendra's grandmother, however, worries about her and knows that now is the time that her granddaughter truly needs her real mother's influence in her life.

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"'Kendra' is a book all teenage girls can relate to- it deals with a lot of issues" (Maria Jackson-McBride).



Dope Sick (2009)

Walter Dean Myers (Author)

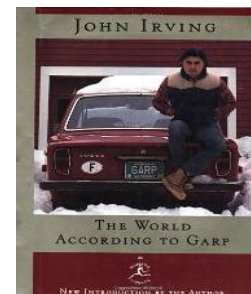
With blood dripping from his arm and sweat soaking his clothes, 17-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance seeks temporary refuge in a crack house in Harlem, New York, after a petty drug deal becomes violent and ends with an undercover cop shot and Lil J pegged as the trigger man. So much for making a little quick cash. In the building, Lil J meets a man named Kelly, who is somehow able to watch past scenes from Lil J's life and, stranger yet, scenes of what may come. For example, Kelly shows Lil J that if he continues on his current route, he will commit suicide as a SWAT team bears down on the very building in which he is hiding. With that, Kelly questions Lil J about his wasted existence, what went wrong, and what he would change.

"It's hard for me to identify a 'favorite book' but the book that sticks out the most is, "The World According to Garp." I could read a few pages and laugh to high-heaven and then read a few more pages and be in tears. It's just a great book!"
(Mrs. Meeks)

The World According to Garp (1978)

John Irving

A modern day classic, this popular novel has it all. It tells the tale of bastard son T.S. Garp and the many oddball people and unique experiences he encounters. Among the unforgettable main characters are Garp's feminist leader mother, his naive wife, a transsexual ex-football player, and a group of women with their tongues cut out. Through it all, Garp stays at home to raise the kids, encounters pain and loss, and marital infidelity, among other things.



BELOVED
A NOVEL

TONI MORRISON

Beloved (Morrison, Toni) (1987)

Toni Morrison (Author)

🏆 Award Winner

After arriving in Ohio via the underground railroad, Sethe is followed by her former owner. She kills her two-year-old daughter rather than allow her to be returned to slavery. Her house is haunted by the baby's spirit, Beloved, who is driven out but returns as a young woman of twenty. Sethe becomes consumed with this spirit-made-flesh, and she deteriorates both physically and mentally. Denver, Sethe's living daughter, tries to provide for the family. The women of the community drive out the spirit, but it may be too late for Sethe.

"My favorite book is, "Beloved." It's the first book for which I did an in-depth analysis. Through the process of reading and re-reading, I was able to develop an appreciation for good literature"
Mr. Hamlin.



Mrs. Meeks



Ms. Kongolo

"The Complete Guide to Successful Summer Reading" is a work-in-progress. We hope that it is helpful and that it will assist you in finding a good book to read for the summer. We have listed additional links below. Have a wonderful, restful and literate summer. We can't wait to hear about the books you've read.

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Books & Authors

amazon.com

**Fairfax County Public Schools
Suggested Summer Reading |**