

Student-Recommended Literature

Books Recommended Lowell High School Freshmen

Adams, Richard, *Watership Down* recommended by Marc Kurose

Watership Down is a tale of several rabbits who leave their home when danger threatens. The book tells of their adventures and trials as they searched for a new home.

Alcott, Louisa May, *Little Women* recommended by Dana Lee

Little Women tells the tale of four sisters and their lives as they grow up. As they mature, their ambitions change unexpectedly.

Alexander, L.Lyod, *The Vesper Holly Books* recommended by Marisa Lee

The Vesper Holly Books tells of Vesper Holly's adventures around the world during the 1870s. Easy to read, whimsical and entertaining.

Applegate, K.A., *The Invasion* recommended by Victoria Fong

There are five human kids who acquire the ability to look like any animal they have touched before, but after two howls, they change back.

Austen, Jane, *Emma* recommended by Dana Lee

Emma is a young woman who plays matchmaker for the people in her city. In the end, she makes a match for herself.

Austen, Jane, *Pride and Prejudice* recommended by Deborah Ahn

This light-hearted and amusing novel portrays the gentle rural society of the story's time. See initial impressions and later mutual feelings toward each other between the witty Elizabeth Bennet and the haughty Mr. Darcy.

Beatty, Paul, *The White Boy Shuffle* recommended by Isaac Melamed

This book is about an African American boy who goes from living in a white neighborhood. He experiences hard times and ends up joining a gang, among other things.

Berg, A. Scott, *Lindbergh* recommended by Ben Stewart

A biography on the famous pilot who first crossed the Atlantic by air. It is a very complex book, looking at Charles Lindbergh's entire life.

Bishop, Anne, *The Black Jewels Trilogy* recommended by Bernardina Quevedo

This is a very interesting set of books with a unique view of what the darker realms are. The main character is a seemingly innocent girl named Jaenelle. Angeline who was born to be Witch, Queen of all the Blood. She is young in the beginning of the series, and her mind can easily be turned. As time goes by, she matures and grows into her power, but still the question remains if she will be the destruction of the Blood.

Bradbury, Ray, *The Martian Chronicles* recommended by Danielle Mizuri and Allan Lem

This book is the chronicles of when humans must flee earth because of destruction and are searching for a new beginning on the red planet Mars.

This book is about stories of astronauts finding life on Mars in the future. It is a collection of different stories and points of views.

Bronte, Charlotte, *Jane Eyre* recommended by Lauren Yee (0308)

After an abusive childhood governess Jane Eyre travels to Thornfield where she has yet to discover the secrets of her moody employer and the attic.

Brooks, Martha, *Two Moons in August* recommended by Alexi Venn

A girl's account of one summer, living in a small town. A boy comes from the big city to stay for the summer and they develop an intricate relationship. The girl is dealing with the death of her mother, while the boy is dealing with his alcoholic father.

Brooks, Terry, *The Sword of Shannara* recommended by Hanley Ma

It's a fantasy novel. It's about two boys who live in Shadyvale. Their names are Shea and Flich Ohmsford. Shea is supposed to find a sword to vanquish the evil warlock.

Brown, Dale, *Shadows of Steel* recommended by Hanley Ma

It takes place during 1997. Iran borrowed an aircraft carrier and other warships from China. The United States were nervous so the President launched a secret program prevent another Gulf War.

Burnett, Francis Hodgson, *A Little Princess* recommended by Stephanie Chan

Sara faces hard times as a servant. With her positive attitude, she makes several friends that eventually led to the reunion of her and her father.

Burnett, Francis Hodgson, *The Secret Garden* recommended by Victoria Fong

Three kids revive an old garden and turn bad memories there into new, happier memories for themselves and the owner of the garden.

Canfield, Jack, *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* recommended by Linda Yu (0319)

This outstanding book is filled with stories and poems that any teen could relate to. It deal with life, love, learning, and the difficulty of growing up.

Christgau, Robert, *Grown up ALL Wrong: 75 Great Rock and Pop Artists From Vaudeville To Techno* recommended by Layla Forrest-White

One of today's most revered rock critics, is a collection of 75 essays spanning decades on an eclectic assortment of great musicians. Whenever Christgau, he conveys his own love of music, a combination of years of acquired taste and a youth's fanaticism for something he feels passionate about.

Christie, Agatha, *Ten Little Indians* recommended by Harrison Li

Ten fugitives are invited to a party by an unknown host. Soon, the people are killed one by one, in a pattern described in the poem "Ten Little Indians."

Christie, Agatha *And Then There Were None* recommended by Lauren Yee (0308)

A mysterious host invites ten guests to his island abode, where they begin to die mysteriously. Based on the popular nursery rhyme, Christie presents a mystery that is, indeed, seemingly perfect.

Clancy, Tom, *The Hunt for Red October* recommended by Marc Kurose

The Hunt for Red October describes a chase for one state of the art submarine. The Russians designed a high tech submarine with a new drive system that runs almost silently, so other subs can not find it. The commander of the sub defects with his entire crew and heads for the United States. The Russians want the sub back, and the Americans want the sub also.

Clancy, Tom, *Rainbow Six* recommended by Jeffrey Chien and Raymond Lew and Edward Liang (0318)

This is a book about an international anti-terrorist group called Rainbow. They stop terrorist activities for all countries with minimal casualties.

John Clark becomes head of a new anti-terrorist group. Missions pop up as soon as they start. They seem unrelated but their timing makes it seem they are.

An international task force that is dedicated to combating terrorism has been made out. A series of random terrorism has caught their attention and they are trying to find out who is behind all of this or if it is just by chance. With great characters and intense, detail action, *Rainbow Six* is a great action book.

Clark, Mary Higgins, *All Around the Town* recommended by Kristen Yim (0314)

Laurie, a young woman who was kidnapped at a young age, is beginning to find out the truth about her past as a psychiatrist helps her sort through the many personalities occupying her body.

Cooney, Caoline B. *The Face on the Milk Carton* recommended by Linda Yu (0319)

This is an amazing story about a teenage girl whose life is turned upside down when she sees the face of a missing girl on a milk carton and realizes that it is her.

Crichton, Michael, *Jurassic Park* recommended by Nicholas Ng (0317)

Scientists figure out how to clone dinosaurs using DNA. They put them on an island near Costa Rica, in hope of creating a new, innovative, theme park. The owner invites a lawyer, a mathematician, and two paleontologists to view the theme park before its grand opening. Chaos breaks loose, the dinosaurs escape their fenced settings, and people die. The survivors must escape the island.

Crichton, Michael, *Sphere* recommended by Nicholas Ng (0317)

An extraterrestrial craft is found deep underneath the Pacific Ocean. A crew of US scientists are sent down to investigate the sphere. They find a terror that comes from within themselves.

Curtis, Christopher Paul, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* recommended by Sharon Osterweil (0309)

Kenny and his family, sometimes called the weird Watsons, decide to drive from their home in Michigan to Alabama to visit Grandma. They wind up being involved in a great American tragedy.

Denenberg, Barry, *The Journal of Ben Uchida* recommended by Rebecca Ho (0317)

This fictional diary tells the story of a young Japanese-American boy who is sent to an internment camp with his family during WWII. This book shows the pain and suffering inflicted on the Japanese-Americans during WWII.

DuMaurier, Daphne, *Rebecca* recommended by Lauren Yee (0308)

Upon arriving in his new house the second Mrs. de Winter becomes obsessed with the legacy of the dead but adored first Mrs. de Winter, Rebecca.

Dumas, Alexandre, *The Three Musketeers* recommended by Sophia Teper (0312)

Three men meet. They're all different but all have a common purpose. They work together for justice. There is love and war involved.

Duncan, Lois, *Summer of Fear* recommended by Joe Liu (0320)

She finds out her orphaned cousin knows witchcraft and is using it to steal her boyfriend, brother and even her father. Is she really her cousin??

Evanovich, Janet, *One for the Money* recommended by Sam Choi

This book is about a woman named Stephanie Plum who gets a job recovering people who have missed their court hearings. She gets an assignment to bring in an old nemesis, but ends up finding a way to prove his innocence.

Farmer, Nancy, *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm* recommended by Max Forman-Mullin

This book deals with a futuristic Africa, where the children of a powerful general have run away from home, and three abnormal detectives set out to find them. Their personal features aid in the search for the two, with an enormous ear, a long arm, and some powerful eyes. It is an interesting, well-written book full of characters and plot twists.

Fisher, M.F.K., *The Boss Dog* recommended by Alexi Venn

An American mother and her two daughters go to live in a small French town for several months. They meet The Boss Dog, who has one lopsided black ear and a commanding personality, who takes them through several hilarious situations. It is composed of separate episodes with the curious people who come or live in the town.

Fitch, Janet, *White Oleanders* recommended by Glisa Hartwig (0307)

This book is about a girl named Astrid. She goes through her teenage years in foster care because her mother is in jail for killing an abusive boyfriend.

Fitzgerald, John D., *The Great Brain* recommended by Nikki Akraboff (0302)

These books take place in early 20th century Utah. They are based on young John's experiences with his conniving older brother, Tom, who has a great brain and a money-loving heart.

Fletcher, Susan, *Shadow Spinner* recommended by Sharon Osterweil (0309)

Marjan, a parentless peasant, travels to the sultan's harem and helps a brave woman named Sharazad survive. These intelligent young women used storytelling to save hundreds of lives.

George, Jean Craighead, *My Side of the Mountain* recommended by Marisa Lee and Bailey Zhao (0305)

Told in the point of view of Sam Bribley, a teenager who runs away from his crowded New York apartment to live in the wilderness of the Catskill Mountains.

A story about Sam Giribley, a city boy, who runs away to the Catskill Mountains. He survives with only a penknife, ball of cord, an ax, and flint and steal. He learns a lot the wilderness and himself.

Gibbons, Kaye, *Ellen Foster* recommended by Layla Forrest-White

Ellen Foster is a lovely, quite unusual story about a girl growing up in the South. This isn't your familiar tale of a child coming of age, but one of a girl searching for a place to belong. Unlike previous books on this topic, such as McCuller's *Member of the Wedding*, *Foster* is done with humor and warmth along with the unmitigated resolve of the title character.

Goodking, E.D., *The Magic of Recluce* recommended by James Hofmann

This book is about a young, from the island of Recluce going out and becoming good at magic. It has an interesting system of magic.

Grisham, John, *The Testament* recommended by Rebecca Ho (0317)

It is about an extremely rich but bitter man who jumps to his death and leaves his estate to his illegitimate daughter, who had previously been unheard of. The man's lawyers must find his daughter, who is missionary in a remote area. The story is gripping and well-written.

Haddiz, Margaret Peterson, *Leaving Fishers* recommended by Mary Liu (0319)

About a girl that makes new friends and finds out they belong to a religious cult. She has to do bad things to please them.

Harr, Jonathan, *A Civil Action* recommended by Matthew Hooker-Agvanian

A chronicle of litigation about a public health scandal of immense proportions. Non-fiction, but reads like fiction.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, *The Scarlet Letter* recommended by Jacqueline Xu (0301)

The Scarlet Letter is a story of Hester Prynne who was branded with a large, red 'A' because of her adulterous relationship with a young minister.

Heinlin, Robert A., *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* recommended by Ben Stewart

A science fiction story about a lunar revolution. It is told in a very interesting way: the evolved 'loonie' language, as seen by Robert Heinlin. This language takes a while but once you are accustomed to it, it adds character to the story.

Herbert, Frank, *Dune* recommended by Ben Stewart

One of the best books I have ever read. It is a science fiction story set in the far future, but there are some interesting topics that are dealt with.

Huxley, Aldous, *Brave New World* recommended by Matthew Hooker-Agvanian

A satirical view of the future based on Huxley's observations of the world in the 1930's.

Jacques, Brian, *The Legend of Luke* recommended by Nikki Akraboff (0302)

This adventurous story tells of how Martin, a mouse warrior, travels to his birthplace to discover what happened to his father, Luke. This magnificent story is part of the Redwall series.

Jacques, Brian, *Martin the Warrior* recommended by Raymond Lew

Martin is a brave mouse who is a slave but manages to get out with the help of some other friends. He tries to free the other slaves and in this quest, he encounters many other side adventures. Brian Jacques makes this imaginary world come alive with great characters and an excellent plot that will not let you put this book down.

Jacques, Brian, *The Outcast of Redwall* recommended by Nance Yuan (0315)

This book traces the adventures of Sunflash the Mace, a badger kidnapped by pirates as a baby. He travels to Salamandastron, the home of warrior badgers, to find his rightful place as lord. Meanwhile, Redwall Abbey is under attack by pirates. Sunflash helps the Redwallers, and Viel, the son of a pirate ferret, must choose between loyalty to a betrayal of his Redwall friends. *The rest of the series tells the adventures of other Redwallers.

Jordan, Robert, *The Wheel of Time* recommended by Marisa Lee and Bernardina Quevedo

Generic fantasy tale of the prophesied hero destined to fight ultimate evil. Predictable plot by excellent storytelling and characters.

This series contains eight books that center around a young man named Rand al'Thor. He is fortunate, or unfortunate, enough to be the Dragon Reborn, a man who is much prophesied about and much feared. It deals with his struggle to control his power and also the struggles of his friends as the Wheel of Time weaves them into the pattern that will either save the world or destroy it.

Keillor, Garrison, *The Sandy Bottom Orchestra* recommended by Kevin Man

Rachel, 14 year-old, lives in Sandy Bottom with mother that is involved in city politics and dad that is a composer conductor.

Kerouac, Jack, *On the Road* recommended by Kirsten Moore

The story of a young, adventurous traveller, Sal Paradise, who encounters the turbulence of America during the Beat generation, with fellow traveller, Dean Moriarty.

King, Laurie R., *Mary Russell Mysteries* recommended by Naomi Soloman (0317)

The books in this series - *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, *A Monstrous Regiment of Women*, *A Letter of Mary*, and *The Moor* - are thrilling Sherlock Holmes mysteries, told from a surprising viewpoint: that of the great detective's new partner, the young and highly intelligent Mary Russell.

King, Stephen, *It* recommended by Nicholas Ng (0317)

A town gets haunted by evil spirits. The monster forms into anything that terrifies any individual. Seven teenagers try to stop the monster without a name. They are successful, but they are haunted by the horror into adulthood.

Kipling, Rudyard, *Kim* recommended by Aran Law

At the height of British Imperialism, Rudyard Kipling writes the story of an orphaned son of an English soldier. Like Billy from *Where The Red Ferns Grow*, Kim lives life of spies and secrets. On a much larger scope, Kipling analyzes the differences of British (West) and East lifestyles.

Konigsburg, E.L., *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* recommended by Kevin Man

Caletia and Jamie ran away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They found a statue called 'Angeli' and tried to find the sculptor's name before going home.

Kosinski, Jerzy, *Being There* recommended by Matthew Hooker

A short, mysterious book about a simple man who is made into a hero by the American media.

Le Guin, Ursula K., *The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas* recommended by Glisa Hartwig (0307)

Omelas is the embodiment of pure happiness. Not sappy, unrealistic happiness, but (for example)

people who go to work with smiles on their faces. The ones who walk away disagree with the method used to keep the town so happy.

Lee, Marie G., *Necessary Roughness* recommended by Isaac Melamed

This book is about a Korean boy who goes from living in a neighborhood where he fit in, to an all white neighborhood. He has a tough time fitting in, and there are many road bumps on the way.

Leon, Uris, *The Exodus* recommended by Kristina Linn and Aviv Golani (0318)

In this book, Exodus, the author tells a story about Palestine becoming the state of Israel. He describes what is going on in the young lives of young Jews there.

This was one of the best book I had ever read. It was about the creation of the nation of Israel. I loved that book, because it brought up so many emotions inside of me. It made me cry hard. I love books that can do that.

Leroux, Gaston, *The Phantom of the Opera* recommended by Ariel Goldberg

Set in Paris in the late 1800s, a famous singer at the opera house, Christine Daae, is getting private singing lessons by a mysterious tutor no one else has ever seen. All the while the little ballet girls are seeing a strange figure lurking about the building, and bodies turning up dead. Is there a connection? And this tutor, he seems to be in love with more than Christine's voice, yet she only sees him as a wise mentor. Still, he seems to have some influence, like a trance, over her. When she is not with him, Christine loves the Viconte de Chagny, Raoul. The brutality of the phantom's reaction to this is pure excitement until the very end.

Lewis, C.S., *The Horse and His Boy* recommended by Rebecca Ho (0317)

The whole series, about a imaginary land named Nornia, is excellent, but I liked this one because of the main character, a boy who takes a trip to Narnia with a girl and two talking horses.

Lewis, C.S., *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* recommended by Deborah Ahn

This magical tale tells of four siblings that discover the magical kind of Narnia when they walked into a wardrobe and stepped into Narnia.

London, Jack, *The Call of the Wild* recommended by Harrison Li

Buck, a stolen dog, wanders from place to place after his master dies.

Lowry, Lois, *The Giver* recommended by Maxwell Raynard, Joseph Ho and Amy Luu (0309)

The Giver is the story of a perfect world. Or is it? The book explores the question t true perfection really is.

The Giver is a book about a boy named Jonas. His world is perfect. Everything is under control. Every person is assigned a role in the Community. When Jonas turns twelve he is chosen to receive special training from The Giver. The Giver transmits the memories of true pain and the pleasure of life to Jonas. After he receives the memories, he escapes from the Community. Without Jonas, they have to bear the burden themselves.

The Giver is about future. A future where everything is controlled and iperfecti. It is the world that Jonah must contend with. He is now the receiver and understands that himself must go against everything he was ever taught and free the community's people.

Mah, Adeline Yen, *Faling Leaves* recommended by Kristen Yim (0314)

Mah reveals her difficult childhood under her Eurasian stepmother. As she was growing up, Mah never found favor in her stepmother's eyes and was treated as inferior to her half-siblings.

Mancanlay, David, *The Way Things Work* recommended by Aran Law

This gigantic book explains everything from the construction of a satelite to a small nail clipper. With brief but in-depth explanations to humorous pictures, this is a fascinating piece of literature. If you ever had curiosity for technology read this.

Maupin, Armistad, *Tales of the City* recommended by Kirsten Moore

Naive Maryann moves to S.F. and meets quirky characters ranging from Nob Hill social life to child pornographer in this dazzling portrait of S.F. in the 70s.

McCaffrey, Anne, *All the Weyrs of Pern* recommended by Raymond Lew

On another planet, there is no technology and fire-breathing dragons along with their human companions have been made to combat the enemy on that planet. The enemy is the deadly thread, which are organisms that fall from the Red Star that orbits the planet. But by recovering an ancient computer, the people of Pern now have a way to rid thread of their land forever. McCaffrey creates a wonderful world and puts you in it so that it feels real. This is a great book for people who like science fiction.

McCourt, Frank, *Angela's Ashes* recommended by Jeremy Elprin (0303)

Frank McCourt's autobiography, *Angela's Ashes*, shows the many difficulties that a poor Irish family must go through to try to stay alive in the mid-1900s.

McDaniel, Lurlene, *Don't Die, My Love* recommended by Jaclyn Mah (0320)

Don't Die, My Love is about a couple whose undying love for each other will not be torn apart by cancer.

McKillip, Patricia A., *Moon Flash/ The Moon and the Face* recommended by Marisa Lee

Moon Flash tells the story of Kyreols, the daughter of a healer in the Eden or Riverworld, and how she learns of her world.

The Moon & the Face completes the tale of Kyreol as she travels to a new world while attempting to rediscover her own. Beautifully told, most of the enjoyment lies in the reading than the plot. The two books complete one another.

McNaught, Judith, *Night Whispers* recommended by Jacqueline Xu (0301)

Night Whispers is a story of Sloan Reynolds whose multimillionaire father deserted her when she was a child. Now, her father's heart attack is followed by a sudden invitation to meet him and the rest of the family.

Mitchell, Margaret, *Gone with the Wind* recommended by Dana Lee and Deborah Ahn

Gone with the Wind is the story of a young woman's life during the Civil War and Reconstruction. She pursues another man's love when the man she truly loves is right before her.

This one-of-a-kind novel tells the spellbinding tale of the admirable Scarlett O'Hara the heroine of the book. Many other legendary characters such as Rhett Butler come together in this very worthwhile book.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud, *Anne of Green Gables* recommended by Nance Yuan (0315)

Anne Shirley is a red-headed orphan who is adopted by the Cuthberts, a sibling pair. Anne gets into numerous scrapes, but her bright personality and zeal for life is loved by all. Anne experiences the death of a loved one and grows to understand what she wants from life. (The rest of the series traces her life as she goes through college, gets married, and starts a family of her own.)

Montgomery, Lucy Maud, *Rilla of Ingleside* recommended by Kristen Yim (0314)

As Montgomery concludes the Anne of Green Gables Series, she focuses on Rilla, Anne's youngest. Rilla grows and takes on much responsibility as WWI rages in Europe.

Nance, John, *The Last Hostage* recommended by Jeffrey Chien

This is a book about a captain of 737 that is trying to obtain justice for his daughter who was severely abused before being killed.

Neville, Emily, *It's Like This, Cat* recommended by Ryan Leung

This book is about a 13 or 14 year old boy that got to know a lady, that loves cat, which everybody hated, but she was a nice person.

Nolan, Han, *Dancing on the Edge* recommended by Nance Yuan (0315)

Miracle, whose mother died before her birth, has been brought up by her grandmother with spiritual beliefs different from other children. When Miracle's father abandons her, Miracle becomes disillusioned. In a candle ceremony to bring her father back, Miracle burns herself. In the hospital, a psychiatrist and Miracle's aunt help her gain mental stability and learn the real truth about the death of her mother and the disappearance of her father.

O'Connell, Pat, *Knight Hawk* recommended by Jeffrey Chien

This is a book describing how a rogue Air Force captain steals an alert F-15 armed with 2 nukes and threatens to nuke a major metropolitan area.

O'Dell, Scott, *Alexandra* recommended by Amy Luu (0309)

Alexandra is barely seventeen when her father dies. Because of this tragedy, she must become a true daughter of Kalyptos. What she does is very usual for a woman to do. When she finally understands her role, she discovers a secret that threatens to again tear her family apart.

Orwell, George, *1984* recommended by Marc Kurose

1984 is set in an imaginary world. It describes a negative utopia set in 1984. Winston, an Outer Party worker, begins to defy the Party because he sees the problems with the world he lives in. He knows what needs to be done, but he does not know who to accomplish them.

Orwell, George, *Animal Farm* recommended by Dereh Lief

This novel is a relection upon Stalina and his actions. The novel not only captures Stalin's tyranny but also expresses many important ideas surrounding human nature.

Paulsen, Gary *The Hatchet* recommended by Steven Lim and Allan Lem

This book is about a boy who survives a helicopter crash and tries to survive in the woods with only a hatchet.

The Hatchet is a book about a kid getting stranded on a deserted forest. He finds ways to survive using a hatchet and forest items.

Peterson, Katherine, *Jacob Have I Loved* recommended by Jaclyn Mah (0320)

Jacob Have I Loved is about a despised young woman finding happiness even though her twin deprived her of everything.

Pierce, Tamora, *The Immortals* recommended by Naomi Solomon (0317)

The Immortals, a series of four fantasy books- *Wold Magic*, *Wolf Speaker*, *Emperor Mage*, and *The Realms of the Gods*- is the fascinating tale of Verilidaine Sarrasri, a girl who can communicate with animals and shapeshift using wild magic. These books are set in the magical land of Tortall.

Pierce, Tamora, *The Song of the Loiness Quartet* recommended by Nikki Akraboff (0302)

This series follows the story of Alanna, a young girl who longs to be a knight. So she cuts her hair, switches places with her twin brother, and heads off to the palace.

Pike, Christopher, *Remember Me* recommended by Linda Yu (0319)

Shari Cooper, a teen girl who recently died falling from a roof, finds herself dead and unable to cross over to the other side until she solves her own murder. As she searches for clues, she uncovers a secret that changes her entire identity.

Pratchett, Terry, *Interesting Times* recommended by James Hofmann

This book is part of Pratchett's Discworld series. It involves many recurring characters from earlier books in an adventure on the Counterweight continent, a foreign place.

Preston, Richard, *The Hot Zone* recommended by Max Forman-Mullin

This is an amazingly scary book about real cases of people with different strands of the Ebola virus. Horrifically, it describes the way that people died from it and passed it on.

Rawls, Wilson, *Where the Red Fern Grows* recommended by Edward Liang (0318) and Aran Law

Billy, a boy living in the Ozark Mountains, acquires two hounds. Together they experience danger, adventure, and glory but in the end, sorrow.

This is a loving book about a young country boy and his hunting adventures with his dog. Billy grows from a boy to a man. He first earns money to buy the puppies, trains them, and joins numerous competitions. Although very sad, this story is one of the best I have read.

Regan, Dian Curtis, *Princess Nevermore* recommended by Mary Liu (0319)

About a Princess who wants to travel to earth. She does and she misses home terribly. She finds out it's harder to travel back.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* recommended by Sophia Teper (0312)

In his second year at Hogwarts, strange things begin to happen and Harry gets the blame. Harry has to prove that he's not the problem, before everyone gets turned to stone.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* recommended by Sophia Teper (0312), Harrison Li and Cynthia Lo (0302)

An orphan boy with a scar on his forehead is suddenly informed that he, as evidently were his parents, is a wizard amongst magic, adventure, and finding friends. Harry is in for the time of his life.

A young boy finds out that he is a wizard and goes on his first big adventure.

The book *Harry Potter* is about a young boy who finds out he's a wizard and he goes to a wizard school to learn powers.

Sachar, Louis, *Holes* recommended by Kevin Zhang

Stanley Yelnats is arrested for stealing a pair of old sneakers from a homeless shelter. He is placed in a juvenile correction facility. There, he alters his cursed family's fortunes.

Sender, Ruth Minsley, *The Cage* recommended by Sharon Osterweil (0309)

One girl's spirited poetry and encouragement helps hundreds of Jewish women in concentration camps survive. Her strength and resilience cause some Nazis to show a side of them that seems almost human.

Senna, Danzy, *Caucasia* recommended by Samantha Miller (0307)

Birdie looks relatively white, while her older sister Cole, looks black. They were both sent to a black school, where no one even believed they were sisters. But tensions increase among the girls' parents, who eventually divorced. Cole, goes with her black intellectual father; while Birdie goes with her white radicalist mother. Birdie and her mother travel under secret identities for many years, trying to dodge "the feds," and finally come to rest in some obscure town in New Hampshire. Pressure just keeps building and building and finally, Birdie has to know what happened with her father and her sister, who promised to come get her, but hadn't been heard from in 10 years. What she finds in the end, is that you can't make things go back to the way they were.

Shinn, Sharon, *Archangel* recommended by Bernardina Quevedo

This is the story of a world called Samaria where a group of people called the Harmonics travelled to long ago to build a society they deemed perfect. Through genetic engineering, they were able to create "angels" who, with their voice, could communicate with the spaceship Jehovah. Time passed and people forgot the truth. All they know is that the god Jehovah hears the angels' voices and if the concert of the Gloria is not held every year with the god-chosen Archangel and his or her god-chosen angelica or angelico, the world would be destroyed.

Smith, Dean Wesley, *Goblin's Revenge* recommended by Sam Choi

This book is about Spider-Man trying to recover a deadly serum from the Green Goblin. The Green Goblin kidnap Spider-Man's wife and is the one that killed Spider-Man's old fiancée, making the matter more personal.

Speare, Elizabeth George, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* recommended by Stephanie Chan

Katherine Tyler struggles to survive in a Puritan town in Massachusetts during the 1680s where she is treated as an outcast and put on trial for practicing witchcraft.

Steinbeck, John, *Tortilla Flat* recommended by Danielle Mizuiri

This book is about a guy, Danny, who has just come back from the First World War to Monterey, California, his house, and his friends.

Sullivan, George, *Unsolved III* recommended by Ryan Leung

This book was interesting and there was this one story on Bruce Lee's, I think, younger brother, Brandon Lee and it talked about everything that went wrong while shooting the movie *The Crow*.

Tam, Amy, *The Joy Luck Club* recommended by Joe Liu (0320), Samantha Miller (0307) and Kirsten Moore

A tale of four women from China, wanting their four girls to live the American way with Chinese culture. Filled with interesting recalled events.

To be brief, this is the type of book that you take on an airplane because you can't put it down, but it is still deep and moving. It tells different stories of mothers in China and their lives and then the lives of their daughters in America. It is a very emotional novel, and it makes you reevaluate your own life and troubles. (And let me say, the movie is nothing compared to the book.)

The story of the amazing lives of four Asian-American friends whose experiences have effected the hopes and dreams they hold for each of their daughters.

Traven, B. *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* recommended by Nicholas Hogan (0314)

Two young, broke Americans in Mexico, desperate for cash, go to the Sierra Madre mountain range with an old gold miner, in search of gold.

Tolan, Stephanie, *Who's There?* recommended by Nance Yuan (0315)

Two children move in with their aunt, only to find the house is haunted every day by the ghosts of two dead relatives. Everyone says Aunt Aemelia was kind, but why is the ghost of her stepson restless? The children solve the mystery about the truth of the accidental deaths to put the soul of their long-dead cousin to rest.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit* recommended by Aviv Golani (0318), Nicholas Hogan (0314) and Bailey Zhao (0305)

J.R.R. Tolkien writes a magical novel about elves, goblins and many other make believe characters. It's the story of a Hobbit who goes on an adventure that changes his life.

Bilbo Baggins, a feeble being called a hobbit, about half a human's size, is recruited by a band of dwarves and a wizard to join a journey to an ancient dwarf mountain-castle far to the east, now inhabited by a terrible dragon, and take back the mountain and its hordes of treasure.

An adventurous journey with an unexpected hero, a hobbit. He goes through a tedious quest, finding monsters, dragons, and treasure. He is transformed from a small, shy, person to a hero to be remembered for the ages.

Twain, Mark, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* recommended by Joseph Ho

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is about a mischievous boy. Tom and his friend Huck get in trouble when they see a murder take place. They run from the murderers but stumble across their treasure. At the end, they kill the murderers and find the gold. They become heroes of their town.

Ullman, James Ramsey, *Banner in the Sky* recommended by Bailey Zhao (0305)

This book is about mountain boy, Rudi, who wants to climb the Chadel. The same summit killed his father and is the last unconquered summit in the Alps.

Unknown, *The Covenant* recommended by Kristina Linn

The Covenant is about the history of South Africa, it goes from the ancient times of the great African empires, to the abolishment of the apartheid. It was the longest book I had ever read, a little over 1,000 pages and it really supplemented my history knowledge since history books are notorious for neglecting the histories of unimportant countries.

Vullman, Philip *The Golden Compass* recommended by Hasar Tbeilel

A young girl sets out on a quest to discover a rumored gateway between dimensions only to find that the powerful church is preparing for a war that spans universes.

White, Robb, *DeathWatch* recommended by Joseph Ho

DeathWatch is about a man who is hired to be an assistant for a tourist. The tourist kills a man and now hunts his assistant. His assistant is forced to live in the wild. The tourist gets outsmarted by his assistant, but when they get to town the police believe the tourist. At the end, he has to prove his innocence and capture the real murderer.

Wolff, Tobias, *This Boy's Life* recommended by Dereh Lief

This was truly a classic novel. The author reflected upon his teenage years; his trials and tribulations. Any teenager can relate to this novel because the author successfully expresses the emotions any teenager encounters.

Wrede, Patricia, *Dealing with Dragons* recommended by Kevin Zhang

An independent-minded princess runs away from home. Dropping by in a cave full of dragons, she volunteers to be a dragon's princess. She helps defeat some pesky wizards.

Wrede, Patricia C., *The Enchanted Forest Chronicles* recommended by Naomi Soloman (0317) and Nikki Akraboff (0302)

The Enchanted Forest Chronicles is a series of four books namely *Dealing with Dragons*, *Searching for Dragons*, *Calling on Dragons*, and *Talking to Dragons*. These books are the stories of Princess Cimorene's adventures in the Mountains of Morning and the Enchanted Forest, told with an un-fairy-tale-like sense of humor.

This is a set of four books about a out-of-ordinary princess named Cimerone who runs away to become a dragon's princess. These books follow her adventures fighting wizards and saving the Enchanted forest.

Yep, Laurence, *Dragonwings* recommended by Steven Lim

This book is about a boy from China who goes to America to live with his father. He has never seen his father but later on they become close and together they build a flying machine.

Zahn, Timothy, *Heir to the Empire* recommended by Edward Liang (0318)

Five years after *Return of the Jedi*, the New Republic has taken the place of the Empire. Princess Leia, Han Solo, and Luke Skywalker are unaware of a new evil.