

Summer Reading Clubs 2020

The Talent Code by Daniel Coyle—Self-improvement

What is the secret of talent? How do we unlock it? In this groundbreaking work, journalist and New York Times bestselling author Daniel Coyle provides parents, teachers, coaches, students, athletes, businesspeople--and everyone else--with tools they can use to maximize potential in themselves and others.

Mr. Mears

The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon

The Energy Bus, an international best seller by Jon Gordon, takes readers on an enlightening and inspiring ride that reveals 10 secrets for approaching life and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment - at work and at home. Jon infuses this engaging story with keen insights as he provides a powerful roadmap to overcome adversity and bring out the best in yourself and your team. When you get on *The Energy Bus* you'll enjoy the ride of your life!

Mr. Furuto

Psychology

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

In this stunning new book, Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

Mrs. Patterson

Christian Living for Teens

Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw—Christian political nonfiction

Jesus for President is a radical manifesto to awaken the Christian political imagination, reminding us that our ultimate hope lies not in partisan political options but in Jesus and the incarnation of the peculiar politic of the church as a people set apart from this world. In what can be termed lyrical theology, *Jesus for President* poetically weaves together words and images to sing (rather than dictate) its message. It is a collaboration of Shane Claiborne's writing and stories, Chris Haw's reflections and research, and Chico Fajardo-Heflin's art and design. Drawing upon the work of biblical theologians, the lessons of church history, and the examples of

modern-day saints and ordinary radicals, *Jesus for President* stirs the imagination of what the Church could look like if it placed its faith in Jesus instead of Caesar.”

Mr. Margene

Practicing the King's Economy by Michael Rhodes, Robby Holt, & Brian Fikkert— nonfiction
“The church in the West is rediscovering the fact that God cares deeply for the poor. More and more, churches and individual Christians are looking for ways to practice economic discipleship, but it's hard to make progress when we are blind to our own entanglement in our culture's idolatrous economic beliefs and practices. *Practicing the King's Economy* cuts through much confusion and invites Christians to take their place within the biblical story of the "King Jesus Economy." Through eye-opening true stories of economic discipleship in action, and with a solid exploration of six key biblical themes, the authors offer practical ways for God's people to earn, invest, spend, compensate, save, share, and give in ways that embody God's love and provision for the world.”

Mr. Steiner

Jesus Outside the Lines: A Way Forward for Those Who are Tired of Taking Sides by Scott Sauls—Christian social nonfiction

“Whether the issue of the day on Twitter, Facebook, or cable news is our sexuality, political divides, or the perceived conflict between faith and science, today's media pushes each one of us into a frustrating clash between two opposing sides. Polarizing, us-against-them discussions divide us and distract us from thinking clearly and communicating lovingly with others. Scott Sauls, like many of us, is weary of the bickering and is seeking a way of truth and beauty through the conflicts. *Jesus Outside the Lines* presents Jesus as this way. Scott shows us how the words and actions of Jesus reveal a response that does not perpetuate the destructive fray. Jesus offers us a way forward--away from harshness, caricatures, and stereotypes. In *Jesus Outside the Lines*, you will experience a fresh perspective of Jesus, who will not (and should not) fit into the sides.”

Mrs. Rollins

Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman

Are you a follower of Jesus? Don't answer too quickly. In fact, you may want to read this book before you answer at all. Consider it a 'Define the Relationship' conversation to determine exactly where you stand. You may indeed be a passionate, fully devoted follower of Jesus. Or, you may be just a fan who admires Jesus but isn't ready to let him cramp your style. Then again, maybe you're not into Jesus, period. In any case, don't take the question---Are you a follower of Jesus?---lightly. Some people don't know what they've said yes to and other people don't realize what they've said no to, says Pastor Kyle Idleman. But Jesus is ready to clearly define the relationship he wants with his followers. *Not a Fan* calls you to consider the demands and rewards of being a true disciple. With frankness sprinkled with humor, Idleman invites you to live the way Jesus lived, love the way he loved, pray the way he prayed, and never give up living for the One who gave his all for you.

Mrs. Freeman

Get Out of Your Head: Stopping the Spiral of Toxic Thoughts by Jennie Allen (girls only)

The visionary behind the million-strong IF:Gathering challenges Christian women to transform their outlook and their lives by interrupting their spiraling thoughts and realizing their God-given power to think differently. Speaker and Bible teacher Jennie Allen hears all the time from women who feel stuck in patterns of frustration and defeat. In her search for a solution, she's learned that the greatest spiritual battle of our generation is taking place between our ears. How we think shapes how we live. So it's crucial that we learn how to stop our spinning thoughts and refuse to fall prey to toxic thinking patterns like victimhood, anxiety, and distraction. In this book Jennie draws on biblical truth and recent discoveries in neuroscience to show exactly how we can fight the enemies of the mind with the truth of who God is and who He calls us to be.

Mrs. Sowell

When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man by Edward T. Welch (11th and 12th grade)

Overly concerned about what people think of you? All experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that God is awesome and glorious, not other people. Welch uncovers the spiritual dimension of people-pleasing and points the way through a true knowledge of God, ourselves, and others. from Amazon.com Mr. Wise

Something Needs to Change: A Call to Make Your Life Count in a World of Urgent Need by David Platt

While leading a team on a week-long trek of the Himalayas, bestselling author and pastor David Platt was stunned by the human needs he encountered, an experience so dramatic that it "changed the trajectory of my life." Meeting a man who'd lost his eye from a simple infection and seeing the faces of girls stolen from their families and trafficked in the cities, along with other unforgettable encounters, opened his eyes to the people behind the statistics and compelled him to wrestle with his assumptions about faith. In *Something Needs to Change*, Platt invites readers to come along on both the adventure of the trek, as well as the adventure of seeking answers to tough questions like, "Where is God in the middle of suffering?" "What makes my religion any better than someone else's religion?" and "What do I believe about eternal suffering?" Platt has crafted an irresistible message about what it means to give your life for the gospel--to finally stop talking about faith and truly start living it.

Mr. White

We Became Men - The Journey Into Manhood by Dr. Shawn Brower (guys only)

We all learn by doing - guys in particular. Yet, since early grade school years most guys have been told what to do, and the prevailing message has been what we can't and shouldn't do. However, *We Became Men* is an invitation to affirm, validate, and empower guys to discover who they are, what they should pursue, and who they can become! To pursue manhood from a biblical perspective will give critical direction in areas such as performance, relationships, entertainment, temptations, leadership, and much more. Dr. Brower looks forward to leading a group of Briarwood guys in this adventure of discovery, risk, and revelation!

Dr. Brower

Even Better than Eden: Nine Ways the Bible's Story Changes Everything about Your Story

by Nancy Guthrie

Most people--Christians and non-Christians alike--are familiar with the garden of Eden, the perfect paradise that God created for the first man and woman. However, many don't realize the Bible teaches that God is preparing an even better world for his people in the future new creation. In this book, experienced Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie traces 9 themes--the tree of life, garden and wilderness, the image of God, clothing, Sabbath rest, marriage, the seed of the Serpent, the temple, and the city of Jerusalem--throughout the Bible, revealing how God's plan for the new heaven and the new earth is far better than anything we can possibly imagine. What's more, she shows how this better world is already having an impact in the world today. Combining theological depth with warmth and accessibility aimed at addressing today's needs, this book will help individuals or small groups understand the story of God's plan for the future of his people.

Mrs. Youngblood

Live Fearless: A Call to Power, Passion, and Purpose by Sadie Robertson, Beth Clark

Dear friends, I don't know about you, but I'm pretty tired of the struggle. You know which one I mean--fear, loneliness, not knowing who I am or what I'm meant to do. . . . Sound familiar? I struggled with insecurity, comparison, and isolation for too many years, from thigh gaps to eyebrows to the lifestyles I felt I had to live up to. I was so afraid of being "found out," that everyone in my life would somehow figure out that I was fearful and small and that I struggled to make my faith a reality and to be secure in who I am. It took a major perspective shift from staring at comments on a screen to really digging into the pages of my Bible to see what God actually says about overcoming fear. Setting aside the fear, anxiety, and comparison to become the joy-filled person God created you to be is exactly what God is inviting you into. To really be seen and known. To be an agent of change by choosing compassion, connection, and acceptance for everyone you come in contact with. Inside this book are ways to find your power, passion, and purpose--and reach for your dreams.

Mrs. Morris

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges

"Be holy, for I am holy" commands God to His people. But holiness is something that is often missed in the Christian's daily life. According to author Jerry Bridges, that's because we're not exactly sure what our part in holiness is. In *The Pursuit of Holiness*, he helps us see clearly just what we should rely on God to do--and what we should accept responsibility for ourselves.

Mr. Wahlman

Civil Rights and Activism

The Help by Katherine Stockett—regional Southern fiction (11th-12th grade)

“Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but

now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town.” (blurb from Amazon)

Mrs. Hudson

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin—memoir (11th-12th grade)

“In the Deep South of the 1950s, journalist John Howard 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.”

Mrs. Rivera

Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore—nonfiction

“A dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery. An upscale art dealer accustomed to the world of Armani and Chanel. A gutsy woman with a stubborn dream. A story so incredible no novelist would dare dream it.”

Mrs. Wilson

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson—Christian social justice memoir (11th and 12h grade)

“A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.”

Mrs. Eady

Criminal Pursuit and Espionage

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix—graphic novel (but true story)

In graphic novel format, this book tells the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fight against the oppression of the German people during World War II. Dietrich was a German Lutheran pastor who was shocked to watch the German church embrace Hitler's agenda of hatred. He spoke out against the Nazi party and led a breakaway church that rebelled against the racist and nationalist beliefs of the Third Reich. Dietrich eventually became convinced that Hitler and the Nazi Party needed to be stopped--and he was willing to sacrifice everything to do so.

New History Teacher

Dystopian Fiction

The House of Scorpion by Nancy Farmer—young adult fiction

To most people around him, Matt is not a boy, but a beast, a mere clone. A room full of chicken litter with roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. But for El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium -- a strip of poppy fields lying between the U.S. and what was once called Mexico -- Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself for Matt is himself. They share identical DNA. Can Matt escape the destiny laid out for him?

Mrs. Anderson

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins—young adult fiction

In an act of self-sacrifice, Katniss Everdeen volunteers to be tribute, one of two children chosen to fight to the death in an arena for the entertainment of the citizens of Panem, the city that controls her territory and keeps them in poverty. Will Katniss survive the brutal game, and beyond that, can anything be done to end the cycle of brutality?

Mrs. Zachow

Lord of the Flies by William Golding—classic young adult fiction

When British school boys are stranded on a tropical island during WWII, chaos ensues! A chilling look into human nature.

Mr. Herren

The Giver by Lois Lowry—young adult fiction

Jonas lives in a society without pain or suffering. Everyone just has to take one pill a day, and they have the perfect society. At the coming of age ceremony, Jonas becomes the Receiver of Memories, and in his new position, discovers just how much the society has given up for peace.

Coach Kerley

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury - dystopian classic

In Bradbury's science fiction novel, he imagines a future American society where books are not only outlawed, but must be destroyed by firemen whose job is to set them ablaze. The main character, Guy Montag, slowly begins to question his role as a fireman as he realizes the impact of his actions. Bradbury's novel encompasses both the personal transition and growth of Montag along with a greater societal question of how we should preserve truth and knowledge.

New English Teacher

The Road by Cormac McCarthy—doomsday fiction (11th-12th grade)

Armed with a revolver and a shopping cart of supplies, a man and his son travel the desolate road in search of safety from the elements and from the marauders roving the decimated countryside of a post-apocalyptic America.

Mr. Wilson

Fantasy and Science Fiction

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom—fantasy

Eddie goes to heaven, where he meets the Blue Man, who explains that he died because of Eddie: when Eddie was a child, he once ran into the road after a lost ball, and the Blue Man had a heart attack after swerving to avoid hitting him. The Blue Man teaches Eddie the lesson of human connection—that all lives are connected, even those of strangers—and sets him on his journey to meet the five people with whom he has had deep connections he knew little to nothing about.

Mrs. Pressley

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J. K. Rowling—fantasy

For twelve long years, the dread fortress of Azkaban held an infamous prisoner named Sirius Black. Convicted of killing thirteen people with a single curse, he was said to be the heir apparent to the Dark Lord, Voldemort. Now he has escaped, leaving only two clues as to where he might be headed: Harry Potter's defeat of You-Know-Who was Black's downfall as well. And the Azkaban guards heard Black muttering in his sleep, "He's at Hogwarts... he's at Hogwarts." Harry Potter isn't safe, not even within the walls of his magical school, surrounded by his friends. Because on top of it all, there may be a traitor in their midst. Mrs. Merry

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

An adventurous 11-year-old girl finds another world that is a strangely idealized version of her frustrating home, but it has sinister secrets.

Mr. Evans

The Neverending Story by Michael Ende

The story begins with a lonely boy named Bastian and the strange book that draws him into the beautiful but doomed world of Fantastica. Only a human can save this enchanted place by giving its ruler, the Childlike Empress, a new name. But the journey to her tower leads through lands of dragons, giants, monsters, and magic and once Bastian begins his quest, he may never return. As he is drawn deeper into Fantastica, he must find the courage to face unspeakable foes and the mysteries of his own heart.

Mr. Conrad

Mistborn: The Final Empire by Brandon Sanderson (11th-12th grade)

Where ash falls from the sky, and mist dominates the night, evil cloaks the land and stifles all life. Criminal mastermind Kelsier teaches Allomancy, the magic of metals, to another Mistborn, urchin Vin 16. The unlikely heroine is distracted by rich Venture heir Elend. Can Kelsier's thieving crew take on the tyrant Lord Ruler and bring back colour to their world?

Mr. Bautista

Mysteries

So Not Happening by Jenny B. Jones

Bella Kirkwood had it all: A-list friends at her prestigious private school, Broadway in her backyard, and Daddy's MasterCard in her wallet. Then her father, a plastic surgeon to the stars, decided to trade her mother in for a newer model. Then when Bella's mom falls in love with a man she met on the Internet--a factory worker with two bratty sons--Bella has to pack up and move in with her new family in Truman, Oklahoma. On a farm no less! Forced to trade her uber-trendy NYC lifestyle for down-home charm, Bella feels like a pair of Rock & Republic jeans in a sea of Wranglers.

Mrs. McKeen

A Pocket Full of Rye by Agatha Christie—mystery

A handful of grain is found in the pocket of a murdered businessman! Rex Fortescue, king of a financial empire, was sipping tea in his 'counting house' when he suffered an agonising and sudden death. On later inspection, the pockets of the deceased were found to contain traces of cereals. Yet, it was the incident in the parlour which confirmed Jane Marple's suspicion that here she was looking at a case of crime by rhyme!

Mrs. Ford

Personal Struggle Memoir

Bruchko by Bruce Olson—missionary memoir

“What happens when a nineteen-year-old boy leaves home and heads into the jungles to evangelize a murderous tribe of South American Indians? For Bruce Olson, it meant capture, disease, terror, loneliness, and torture. But what he discovered by trial and error has revolutionized the world of missions.”

Mr. Stuart

Educated by Tara Westover - autobiography; memoir (11th - 12th grade)

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Dr. Furuto

Romance

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen - mystery, historical fiction

Seventeen-year-old Catherine Morland excitedly accepts an offer to accompany family friends on a trip to Bath. There, Catherine makes new acquaintances who invite her to Northanger Abbey, and she encounters a world she'd only glimpsed in the pages of her beloved gothic novels. Through Catherine's eyes, the Abbey is full of mystery, suspense, and adventure; and she is the heroine at the center of it all. As her imagination begins to run wild, she imperils her summer, her new friendships, and her burgeoning relationship with the charming Henry Tilney. Both a satire of gothic fiction and a coming-of-age story, *Northanger Abbey* is widely regarded as one of Jane Austen's most comedic works. Amazon.com

Mrs. Conrad

Love, Lies, and Spies by Cindy Anstey—historical romance

Juliana Telford is not your average nineteenth-century young lady. She's much more interested in researching ladybugs than marriage, fashionable dresses, or dances. So when her father sends her to London for a season, she's determined not to form any attachments. Instead, she plans to secretly publish their research. Spencer Northam is not the average young gentleman of leisure he appears. He is actually a spy for the War Office, and is more focused on acing his first mission than meeting eligible ladies. Fortunately, Juliana feels the same, and they agree to pretend to fall for each other.

Dr. Mays

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast by Robin McKinley—young adult fantasy

Beauty has never liked her nickname. She is thin and awkward; it is her two sisters who are the beautiful ones. But what she lacks in looks, she can perhaps make up for in courage. When her father comes home with the tale of an enchanted castle in the forest and the terrible promise he had to make to the Beast who lives there, Beauty knows she must go to the castle, a prisoner of her own free will. Her father protests that he will not let her go, but she answers, "Cannot a Beast be tamed?" Mrs. Kolling

A Voice in the Wind by Francine Rivers—Christian historical romance

This story transports readers back to Jerusalem during the first Jewish-Roman War, some seventy years after the death of Christ. Following the prides and passions of a group of Jews, Romans and Barbarians living at the time of the siege, the narrative is centered on an ill-fated romance between a steadfast slave girl, Hadassah, and Marcus, the brother of her owner and a handsome aristocrat. After surviving the massacre of her family and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, Hadassah is captured and sold to a well-to-do merchant's family. Brought to Rome, she is pressed into service as a personal slave to hedonistic Julia Valerian.

Ms. Sims

Greensleeves by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

For eighteen-year-old Shannon Lightley, life's been an endless parade across Europe, following either her actress mother or her renowned journalist father. Paris, Milan, London—Shannon has been everywhere, but somewhere along the way, she realizes she's really...nowhere. Having graduated from high school and about to board yet another flight for yet another destination,

Shannon is offered an alternative: stay in Portland, Oregon, with her parents' close friend and help his law firm investigate a group of strangers living near the local university. A will with a substantial inheritance is being contested, and Shannon's task is to gather information on the unlikely recipients of the money. Using an assumed name and working as a waitress in a diner, Shannon finds herself entirely on her own for the first time in her life; and as the long summer days go by, she tries to sort out who she really is and what her future holds.

Dr. Houston

Science and Discovery

The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus by Richard Preston—young adult nonfiction

"A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus." Mrs. Dirks

Just Six Numbers: The Deep Forces That Shape the Universe by Martin J. Rees -

The genesis of the universe elegantly explained in a simple theory based on just six numbers by one of the world's most renowned astrophysicists.

Mr. Selkirk

Sports and Competition

Woodlawn by Todd Gerelds

In the midst of violent, impassioned racial tensions in Birmingham, Alabama, new football coach, Tandy Gerelds, was struggling to create a winning football team at Woodlawn High School—one of the last schools in Birmingham to integrate. The team he was handed did not have the caliber of players he needed to win—until he saw Tony Nathan run. But Tony was African American and Coach Gerelds knew that putting him in as running back would be like drawing a target on his own back and the back of his soon-to-be star player. But Coach Gerelds saw something in Tony, and he knew that his decision to let him play was about more than football. It was about doing what was right for the school...and the city.

Coach Forester

Historical Fiction

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr—fiction (11th-12th grade)

Both Marie-Laure, a blind French girl, and Werner, a patriotic German boy, grow up hearing Marie-Laure's uncle's scientific broadcasts for kids and love them. When the Germans invade France, Marie-Laure escapes Paris with her father, who has been entrusted with a valuable diamond from the museum where he works. Werner joins the military, eager to help the cause.

Mrs. Worthington

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows

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—born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island—boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all. Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Dr. Albritton

War and Refugees

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

On May 1, 1915, a luxury ocean liner as richly appointed as an English country house sailed out of New York, bound for Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants. Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone, and for months, its U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic. But the *Lusitania* was one of the era's great transatlantic "Greyhounds" and her captain, William Thomas Turner, placed tremendous faith in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare that for a century had kept civilian ships safe from attack. He knew, moreover, that his ship - the fastest then in service - could outrun any threat. Germany, however, was determined to change the rules of the game, and Walther Schwieger, the captain of *Unterseeboot-20*, was happy to oblige. Meanwhile, an ultra-secret British intelligence unit tracked Schwieger's U-boat, but told no one. As U-20 and the *Lusitania* made their way toward Liverpool, an array of forces both grand and achingly small all converged to produce one of the great disasters of history. Gripping and important, *Dead Wake* captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster that helped place America on the road to war.

Mrs. Latta

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin—young adult nonfiction

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

Mrs. Tedder

The Pianist by Władysław Szpilman—war nonfiction

The last live broadcast on Polish Radio, on September 23, 1939, was Chopin's Nocturne in C# Minor, played by a young pianist named Wladyslaw Szpilman, until his playing was interrupted by German shelling. Wladyslaw's family were deported to Treblinka, where they were exterminated; he survived only because a music-loving policeman recognised him. This was only the first in a series of fatefully lucky escapes that littered his life as he hid among the rubble and corpses of the Warsaw Ghetto, growing thinner and hungrier, yet condemned to live.

Mrs. Martin

Note: The blurbs are copied and pasted from Goodreads.com unless otherwise noted.