

Title and author	Genre	Description
The Count of Monte Cristo - Alexandre Dumas	<p>Classic Fiction</p> <p>*Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's <i>The Great American Read</i></p> <p>*Recommended for ambitious readers who enjoy action, adventure, and intrigue.</p>	<p>"Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantes is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution was inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment." (Amazon).</p> <p>Abridged 448 pages Unabridged 1276 pages (recommended)</p> <p>*Both versions are accepted.</p>
Transcendent Kingdom - Yaa Gyasi	<p>Contemporary Fiction</p> <p>*<i>NEW YORK TIMES</i> Bestseller and Finalist for the <i>WOMEN'S PRIZE</i></p> <p>*Recommended for mature readers. Told in the style of a science memoir.</p>	<p>"<i>Transcendent Kingdom</i> is a deeply moving portrait of a family of Ghanaian immigrants ravaged by depression and addiction and grief—a novel about faith, science, religion, love" (Amazon).</p> <p>226 pages</p>
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates - Wes Moore	<p>Non-Fiction</p> <p>*Recommended for those interested in questions of race and the impact of education and opportunity on personal success.</p> <p>*Note: some domestic violence</p>	<p>"The Other Wes Moore tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world" (Amazon).</p> <p>288 pages</p>
<i>As Bright as Heaven</i> by Susan Meissner	<p>Historical Fiction</p> <p>*Recommend for those interested the Spanish Flu pandemic and World War I.</p>	<p>"As Bright as Heaven is the compelling story of a mother and her daughters who find themselves in a harsh world not of their making, which will either crush their resolve to survive or purify it" (Amazon).</p> <p>395 pages</p>
<i>The Humans: A Novel</i> by Matt Haig	<p>Science Fiction</p> <p>*Recommended for those who enjoy a comic voice and fantasy that sheds insight</p>	<p>"Praised by The New York Times as a "novelist of great seriousness and talent," author Matt Haig delivers an unlikely story about human nature and the joy found in the messiness of life on Earth. The Humans is a funny, compulsively readable</p>

	into real human struggles and experience.	tale that playfully and movingly explores the ultimate subject—ourselves” (Amazon). 304 pages
<i>Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood</i> - Gary Paulsen	Memoir *Recommended for younger readers who are interested in the challenges of a difficult childhood and the power of nature and reading to change one’s life. Straight-forward narration.	“His name is synonymous with high-stakes wilderness survival stories. Now, beloved author Gary Paulsen portrays a series of life-altering moments from his turbulent childhood as his own original survival story. If not for his summer escape from a shockingly neglectful Chicago upbringing to a North Woods homestead at age five, there never would have been a <i>Hatchet</i> . Without the encouragement of the librarian who handed him his first book at age thirteen, he may never have become a reader” (Amazon). 368 pages
The Inexplicable Logic of My Life - Benjamin Alire Saenz	Young Adult Fiction *Recommended for readers who enjoy a powerful coming of age novel.	“Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it’s senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. If Sal’s not who he thought he was, who is he? This humor-infused, warmly humane look at universal questions of belonging is a triumph”(Amazon). 269 pages
The Vanishing Half - Brit Bennett	Contemporary Fiction *Named a Best Book of 2020 by <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>The Washington Post</i> , <i>NPR</i> , <i>People</i> , <i>Time Magazine</i> , <i>Vanity Fair</i> , and <i>Glamour</i> .	“Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, <i>The Vanishing Half</i> considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins” (Amazon). 250 pages

<p>The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel - Robert Dugoni</p>	<p>Contemporary Fiction</p> <p><i>*Winner of Suspense Magazine's Crimson Scribe Award</i></p> <p><i>*Note: Some sexuality.</i></p>	<p>"Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called 'Devil Boy' or Sam 'Hell' by his classmates; 'God's will' is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Her words were of little comfort, but Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother's devout faith, his father's practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends" (Amazon).</p> <p>434 pages</p>
<p>We Should Hang Out Sometime - Josh Sundquist</p>	<p>Memoir</p> <p><i>*Recommended for those who enjoy inspirational stories told with a humorous voice.</i></p>	<p>"From Paralympic ski racer and YouTube star Josh Sundquist, comes an always-funny (and sometimes-awkward) memoir about teenage misadventures. When I was twenty-five years old, it came to my attention that I had never had a girlfriend. At the time, I was actually under the impression that I was in a relationship, so this bit of news came as something of a shock " (Amazon).</p> <p>300 pages</p>
<p>One of Us is Lying - Karen M. McManus</p>	<p>Young Adult Fiction</p> <p><i>*Recommended for those who enjoy mystery and intrigue.</i></p> <p><i>*Selected as one of the Best YA Books of the year by Entertainment Weekly, Buzzfeed, Popcrush, New York Public Library, and Goodreads.</i></p> <p><i>*A YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.</i></p>	<p>"Pretty Little Liars meets The Breakfast Club" (Entertainment Weekly). "In this "flat-out addictive" (RT Book Reviews) story of what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive" (Amazon)."</p> <p>416 pages</p>
<p>The Tattooist of Auschwitz: A Novel</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p> <p><i>#1 New York Times Bestseller and #1 International Bestseller</i></p>	<p>"A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, <i>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</i> is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions" (Amazon).</p> <p>249 pages</p>

