

Mr. Lang: Gr 11 Non-fiction Booklist*

Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less From Each Other by Sherry Turkle - Explores the dramatic ways technology alters social lives, looking at both the connectivity and isolation that these tools bring, and examines what people want in electronic companions and social networking tools, and the sacrifices that are made by using them.

American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China by Matthew Polly - Describes the childhood dream that led the author to study martial arts at China's famed Shaolin Temple, his initial disenchantment that turned into respect for the instructors, and the training that eventually led him to represent the Temple in international competitions.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver - Follows the author's family's efforts to live on locally- and home-grown foods, an endeavor through which they learned lighthearted truths about food production and the connection between health and diet.

An Anthropologist on Mars: Seven Paradoxical Tales by Oliver Sacks - Presents the histories of neurological patients whose departure from normalcy brings a new perspective to their individual worlds.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates - Author Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful framework for understanding our nation's current crisis on race, illuminating the past and confronting the present as a way to present a vision forward.

The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why It Matters by Tom Nichols - Explores how the information age - Wikipedia, Googling, WebMD, social media - has helped fuel a surge of misguided intellectualism which has crippled our capacity for informed debate. It examines how, because average citizens often believe themselves to be experts on a variety of subjects, we run the risk of becoming an army of ill-informed and angry citizens who denounce the value of and importance of intellectual achievement as opposed to the well-functioning and genuinely informed democracy that we claim to be.

Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska by Michael D'Orso - A portrait of the basketball culture of Fort Yukon, Alaska, describes the community's devotion to their championship high-school basketball team and follows the lives of the fourteen team members, their families, and their coach.

Hallucinations by Oliver Sacks - An investigation into the types, physiological sources, and cultural resonances of hallucinations; traces everything from the disorientations of sleep and intoxication to the manifestations of injury and illness.

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly - Before John Glenn orbited Earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as 'human computers' used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation.

In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences by Truman

Capote - An account of the murders of the four members of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, in 1959 by two drifters who fled to Mexico and were later arrested and executed for their crimes.

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer - A portrait of Chris McCandless chronicles his decision to withdraw from society and adopt the persona of Alexander Supertramp, offering insight into his beliefs about the wilderness and his tragic death in the Alaskan wilderness.

No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row by Susan Kuklin - In their own voices--raw and uncensored--inmates sentenced to death as teenagers talk about their lives in prison, and share their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up there. Susan Kuklin also gets inside the system, exploring capital punishment itself and the intricacies and inequities of criminal justice in the United States.

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore - The author, a Rhodes scholar and combat veteran, analyzes the various sociocultural factors that influenced him as well as another man of the same name and from the same neighborhood who was drawn into a life of drugs and crime and ended up serving life in prison, focusing on the influence of relatives, mentors, and social expectations that could have led either of them on different paths.

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain - Explores the role introverts play in a world that is geared towards those who enjoy communicating with others and offers practical suggestions at how introverts can make sure their message is heard.

The Secret History of Wonder Woman by Jill Lepore - Chronicles the history of the Wonder Women character and comic books and its creator psychologist William Moulton Marston, discussing how she was originally created as a platform for women's rights.

Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard by Laura Bates - Shakespeare professor and prison volunteer Laura Bates discusses her time teaching Shakespeare to prisoners, how she became friends with Larry Newton, and how they bonded over the playwright.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach - A look inside the world of forensics examines the use of human cadavers in a wide range of endeavors, including research into new surgical procedures, space exploration, and a Tennessee human decay research facility.

Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura

Hillenbrand - Relates the story of a U.S. airman who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II, spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean before being rescued by the Japanese Navy, and was held as a prisoner until the end of the war.

*Summary descriptions taken from the NHS Destiny Library Catalog
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