

2006 TENTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

During tenth grade, the main themes explored in literature include coming of age issues, feelings of alienation, and the struggle to survive. The works mentioned on the following list deal with these topics and will help students make connections as they explore these themes.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. FICTION. Calling the police to a party is a tough choice, but what made Melinda call is the devastating secret that keeps her locked in silence.

Auel, Jean. *The Clan of the Cave Bear*. FICTION. This first book in the prehistoric series of four tells the compelling story of survival and personal evolution as members of a Neanderthal clan raise Ayla, a five-year old orphan.

Berry, Liz. *The China Garden*. FANTASY. In this captivating coming of age story, Claire discovers that she possesses psychic powers and uses them to unravel her family's past. The author uses mythology, new age mysticism, and romance to create a compelling story.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. SCIENCE FICTION. Young genius is trained in war games to fight aliens who have attacked and almost destroyed Earth.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. FICTION. A young Mexican girl learns about life and love growing up in a colorful but poor Latino neighborhood in Chicago.

Dash, Joan. *We Shall Not Be Moved*. NON-FICTION. Dash offers a compelling story of the women's shirtwaist factory strike of 1901. In addition to descriptions of the individuals who fought the inhumane conditions in the Lower Manhattan factories, the author includes black and white archival photos of the event.

Kahn, Roger. *The Boys of Summer*. NON-FICTION. Roger Kahn, who covered the Brooklyn Dodgers for the *New York Herald Tribune*, creates a heartfelt story about his beloved team. It is a standard by which all other sports literature is measured.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*. NONFICTION. Haunting story of a young man who hitchhiked to Alaska and walked into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley only to die alone under disturbing circumstances.

McCormick, Patricia. *Cut*. FICTION. A powerful, realistic book about a teenage girl named Callie who has been committed to a treatment facility for cutting herself.

Morrison, Toni. *Song of Solomon*. FICTION. In this coming-of-age story, Milkman Dead, an African-American from the North travels to his ancestral home in the South in search of his identity.

O’Nan, Stewart. *Snow Angels*. FICTIONALIZED BIOGRAPHY. Winner of the 1993 Pirates Alley William Faulkner Prize, this haunting first novel deals with Arty’s account of his family’s breakup and the life and death of a young woman whom he adored as a child.

Roy, Travis. *Eleven Seconds*. NON-FICTION. Boston University hockey player Travis Roy tells his story. Eleven seconds into his debut game, his neck was broken. Roy’s story is both tragic and inspiring.

Stewart, Mary. *The Crystal Cave*. FICTION. The author retells the story of King Arthur and sheds a fascinating new light on the turbulence and mystery of fifth century Britain.

Strasser, Todd. *Can’t Get There From Here*. FICTION. If you think being a teenager is hard, try being a teenager that lives on the streets of New York. Was it really worth running away?

Yolen, Jane. *Briar Rose*. FICTION. This is a powerful retelling of the story of Sleeping Beauty as a Holocaust memoir.