

Putnam Valley High School Summer Reading Lists 2019

At the high school, students are *not* all mandated to read, but rather invited to select their own books and not be limited by the type or number of books. The aim is for students to enhance their genuine curiosity through a richer and authentic reading life. There are still lists for those who are searching for titles. Due to curriculum demands, honors, AP, and IB classes still have required reading, but these students too are invited to read beyond the lists. To promote excitement about what our teachers and students in our community are reading, please check out the [PVHS Summer Reading forum](#) throughout the summer: If you'd like to contribute your own reading, please email Ms. DeMaine (mdemaine@pvcsd.org) and she will add your reader profile.

Our *Community Read* is taking place this summer with the title *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. From the publisher:

Nineteen-year-old Nayeli works at a taco shop in her Mexican village and dreams about her father, who journeyed to the US when she was young. Recently, it has dawned on her that he isn't the only man who has left town. In fact, there are almost no men in the village - they've all gone north. While watching *The Magnificent Seven*, Nayeli decides to go north herself and recruit seven men -- her own "Siete Magníficos" -- to repopulate her hometown and protect it from the bandidos who plan on taking it over.

This contemporary novel is available in print and audio formats through Putnam Valley Free Library, Westchester Library System and Putnam Valley High School Library Media Center. It is also available in Spanish, translated by Enrique Hubbard Urrea. If you need assistance securing a copy, please contact Ms. DeMaine.

Please forward any questions about the summer reading program to Mr. Lathrop at rlathrop@pvcsd.org or Ms. DeMaine at mdemaine@pvcsd.org Thank you.

Please see the lists for students searching for texts and for students required for honors and AP classes:

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9th Grade Suggested Summer Reading Lists

HONORS SHARED READ:

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart Complete before school begins in September, as our first discussions will be based on this text.

Alvarez, Julia. ***Before We Were Free***. 2002.

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo. *historical fiction*

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Twisted***. 2007.

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts. *realistic fiction*

Chevalier, Tracey. ***Girl with the Pearl Earring***. 1999.

The life of 16 year old Griet is transformed forever when she goes to work as a maid in the home of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, and catches the eye of the famous artist. *historical fiction*

Crutcher, Chris. ***Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes***. 1993.

Overweight high school student Eric Calhoun tries to answer his friend Sarah Byrne's dramatic cry for help. *realistic fiction*

Dashner, James. ***The Maze Runner***. 2009.

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Among the Hidden***. 1998.

Government regulations limit families to two children each, so Luke, an illegal third-born, must live his life in secret, hidden in his family's farmhouse. *science fiction*

Hall, Megan Kelley. ***Dear Bully: 70 Authors Tell Their Stories***. 2011.

Presents top authors for teens as they share their stories about bullying--as silent observers on the sidelines of high school, as victims, and as perpetrators. *short stories*

Jiang, Ji-li. ***Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution***. 1997.

A twelve year old girl's memoir of her struggles and sacrifices during the Cultural Revolution in China and of her loyalty and love for her family. *non-fiction*

Katz, John. ***Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho***. 2000.

The story of how Jesse Dailey and Eric Twilegar, self-proclaimed geeks, used the resources of the Internet to try to construct a new future for themselves, escape the boundaries of their dead-end lives, and find a community they could belong to.

Non-fiction

Kincaid, Jamaica. **Annie John**. 1985.

Annie John and her passage into young adulthood – the tumultuous love of her mother and their gradual separation is a story that will speak to listeners of all ages. *classic*

Lloyd, Saci. **The Carbon Diaries 2015**. 2010.

It's the year 2015, a time when global warming has begun to ravage the environment. The UK mandates carbon rationing and a young girl's life is turned upside-down. *science fiction*

Paolini, Christopher. **Eragon**. 2003.

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. *fantasy*

Riggs, Ransom. **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Book 1)**. 2011.

A horrific family tragedy sends sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of an old orphanage that was home to children who were more than just peculiar, but possibly dangerous--and who may still be alive. Illustrated with vintage found photographs.

Roth, Veronica. **Divergent (Divergent series, Book 1)**. 2011.

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

Schlosser, Eric. **Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal**. 2001.

An exploration of the fast food industry in the United States, from its roots to its long-term consequences. *non-fiction*

Schmidt, Gay. **The Wednesday Wars**. 2007.

Condemned to spend Wednesday afternoons with a teacher who hates him, Holling Hoodhood navigates tensions at home and at school as the conflict in Vietnam escalates. *historical fiction*

Smith, Betty. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**. 2018 (75th anniversary edition).

A novel about a young girl, her family and friends, and their life in the slum section of Brooklyn in the early years of the twentieth century. *classic*

VanDraanen, Wendelin. **Flipped**. 2001.

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. *realistic fiction*

All plot synopses courtesy of the Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program, unless otherwise noted.

10th Grade Suggested Summer Reading Lists

HONORS SHARED READ: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Complete before school begins in September, as our first discussions will be based on this text.

Anderson, M.T. ***Feed***. 2002. ****student recommended!****

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. *science fiction*

Bruchac, Joseph. ***Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two***. 2005.

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. *historical fiction*

Cather, Willa. ***My Antonia***. 1918.

A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl named Antonia. *classic* (publisher's description)

Dickens, Charles. ***A Tale of Two Cities***. 1859. ****student recommended!****

Paris and London during the Reign of Terror. *classic* (publisher's description)

Dutton, Judy. ***Science Fair Season: Twelve Kids, a Robot Named Scorch and What It Takes to Win***. 2011

Dutton presents the engaging true story of kids competing in the high-stakes, high-drama world of international science fairs. *non-fiction*

Flanagan, John. ***The Ruins of Gorlan***. 2006. ****student recommended!****

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. *fantasy*

Giles, Gail. ***Shattering Glass***. 2002 ****student recommended!****

When Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, turns the school nerd into Prince Charming, his actions lead to unexpected violence. *realistic fiction*

Grealy, Lucy. ***Autobiography of a Face***. 1994

As a child, Grealy battled cancer and lost much of her jaw to the disease. Her memoir explores the value of beauty in our society. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Hoffman, Alice. ***Turtle Moon***. 1992. ****student recommended!****

When Keith Rosen runs away from his Florida home taking along a motherless baby, his divorced mother is perplexed and terrified. She sets out on her own journey to find him. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Junger, Sebastian. ***The Perfect Storm***. 1997.

The incredible true account of the most extraordinary storm of the 20th century, this is the story of a tempest born from so rare a combination of factors it was deemed "perfect" and of the doomed fishing boat with her crew of six that was helpless in the midst of a force beyond comprehension. *non-fiction*

Nye, Naomi Shihab. ***Nineteen Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East***. 2002.

Nineteen poems about the Middle East and about being an Arab American living in the United States. *poetry* (publisher's description)

Patterson, James. ***Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas***. 2001. ****student recommended!****

Katie Wilkinson believes she has found the perfect man, until he vanishes, leaving behind a diary penned by a woman named Suzanne who wrote it for her baby boy Nicholas. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Sepetyš, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***. 2011. ****student recommended****

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life. *historical fiction*

Westerfeld, Scott. ***Uglies***. 2005. ****student recommended!****

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all. *science fiction*

Yolen, Jane. ***Briar Rose***. 1992.

Haunted by tales of the Holocaust, a young American woman begins a search for her grandmother's World War II past. *historical fiction* (publisher's description)

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**10th Grade Advanced Placement
Required Summer Reading**

Students entering 10th grade AP English Language and Composition must read *Elements of Style* and choose one of two novels, *A Handmaid's Tale* or *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

Atwood, Margaret. *A Handmaid's Tale*. 1985.

The story is set in a near-future New England, in a totalitarian, Christian theonomy that has overthrown the United States government. The novel focuses on the journey of the handmaid Offred.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five*. 1969

This is the story of Billy Pilgrim, a decidedly non-heroic man who has become "unstuck in time." He travels back and forth in time, visiting his birth, death, all the moments in between repeatedly and out of order.

Also, please read this book on style:

White, E.B. and Strunk, William. *Elements of Style*. 1999.

This is *The Elements of Style*, the classic style manual. The revisions to the new edition are purposely kept minimal in order to retain the book's unique tone, wit, and charm. A new Glossary of the grammatical terms used in the book provides a convenient reference for readers. The discussion of pronoun use is revised to reflect the contemporary concern with sexist language. In addition, there are numerous slight revisions in the book itself which implement this advice. (publisher's description)

11th Grade
IB HL

Satrapı, Marjane, *Persepolis*. 2004

“Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapı’s memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapı tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq... Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.” (*Goodreads.com*)

11th Grade Suggested Summer Reading Lists

Albom, Mitch. ***Tuesdays with Morrie***. 1997.

The author, an alumnus of Brandeis University, tells of his meetings with a former professor suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease and all of the lessons he learned about life and death from his college mentor. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian***. 2007. ***student recommended!***

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. *realistic fiction*

Bissinger, H.G. ***Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team and a Dream***. 1990.

Chronicles the obsession of the citizens of Odessa, Texas, with their champion high school football team, the Permian Panthers. *non-fiction*

Bronte, Emily. ***Wuthering Heights***. 1847.

Against a background of English moors in the 18th century, the lives of two families become intertwined through marriage, passion, and the dominating force of a man called Heathcliff. *classic*

Brown, Dan. ***The DaVinci Code***. 2003.

Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon and French cryptologist Sophie Neveu work to solve the murder of an elderly curator of the Louvre, a case which leads to clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci and a centuries-old secret society. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Brunt, Carol Rifka. ***Tell the Wolves I'm Home***. 2012

In this striking literary debut, Carol Rifka Brunt unfolds a moving story of love, grief, and renewal as two lonely people become the unlikelyst of friends and find that sometimes you don't know you've lost someone until you've found them. *realistic fiction*

Capote, Truman. ***In Cold Blood***. 1965.

Recounts the slaying of the Clutter family of Kansas, and the capture, trial and execution of their murderers. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Coelho, Paulo. ***The Alchemist***. 1993.

A shepherd's journey from Spain to Egypt in search of worldly goods and discovers a treasure within. *classic* (publisher's description)

D'Orso, Michael. ***Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska***. 2006.

Follows the Fort Yukon Eagles, winners of six regional championships in a row, through the course of an entire 28-game season, from their first day of practice in late November to the Alaska State Championship Tournament in March. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Edwards, Kim. ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter***. 2005.

Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son is perfectly healthy, but his daughter has Down's syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect his wife, he asks his nurse to take the baby away to an institution. Instead, the nurse disappears into another city to raise the child herself. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Ford, Jamie. ***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet***. 2009.

Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps of the era, this debut novel tells the heartwarming story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko Okabe. *historical fiction*

Grisham, John. ***A Time to Kill***. 1989.

A Southern town is shocked when a 10-year-old black girl is raped by two white men--until the girl's father takes the law into his own hands. *realistic fiction*

Golden, Arthur. ***Memoirs of a Geisha***. 1997. ****student recommended!****

Nitta Sayuri is a young Japanese woman who was taken from her home at the age of nine and sold into slavery as a geisha. She discovers a rare opportunity for freedom when the outbreak of WWII forces an end to the only life she has ever known. *historical fiction* (publisher's description)

Haddon, Mark. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time***. 2003.

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic, fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. *realistic fiction*

Kerouac, Jack. ***On the Road***. 1957.

Chronicles Jack Kerouac's years traveling the North American continent with his friend Neal Cassady, "a sideburned hero of the snowy West." *classic*

Krakauer, Jon. ***Into the Wild***. 1997.

In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do East Coast family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Four months later his decomposed body was found by a party of moose hunters. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

McBride, James. ***The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother***. 1996.

Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? Not even her son knew the answer to that question until he embarked on a twelve-year journey that changed himself and his family forever. James McBride explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage.

non-fiction (publisher's description)

McLaughlin, Emma; Kraus, Nicola. ***The Nanny Diaries***. 2002.

A New York City nanny tells the story of her stint with one family, from beginning to end. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Mullin, Mike. ***Ashfall***. 2011.

After the eruption of the Yellowstone supervolcano destroys his city and its surroundings, fifteen-year-old Alex must journey from Cedar Falls, Iowa, to Illinois to find his parents and sister, trying to survive in a transformed landscape and a new society in which all the old rules of living have vanished. *science fiction*

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Carmen: An Urban Adaptation of the Opera***. 2011.

A policeman's obsessive love for a tempestuous wig factory worker ends in tragedy in this updated version of Bizet's Carmen, set in Spanish Harlem, and told in screenplay format. *screenplay*

Oliver, Lauren. ***Delirium***. 2011.

Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, predictable, and happy life, until ninety-five days before her eighteenth birthday and her treatment, she falls in love. *science fiction*

Picoult, Jodi. ***My Sister's Keeper***. 2004. ****student recommended!****

Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Ralston, Aron. ***127 Hours: Between a Rock and a Hard Place***. 2004.

Hiking into the remote Utah canyonlands, Aron Ralston felt perfectly at home in the beautiful natural world. Then, at 2:41 p.m., eight miles from his truck, in a deep and narrow slot canyon, an eight-hundred-pound boulder tumbled loose, pinning Aron's right hand and wrist against the canyon wall. Through six days of hell, with scant water, food, or warm clothing, and the terrible knowledge that no one knew where he was, Aron eliminated his escape options one by one. Then a moment of stark clarity helped him to solve the riddle of the boulder, and commit one of the most extreme and desperate acts imaginable.

non-fiction

Read, Piers Paul. ***Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors***. 1974.

On February 13, 1972, a Fairchild F-227 of the Uruguayan Air Force crashed with a rugby team and twenty-five of the friends and relatives aboard. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Rice, Anne. ***Interview with a Vampire***. 1976.

Recounting his first two hundred years of life, a vampire tells of his erotic alliance with Claudia, whose passions are forever locked up in the body of a child. *fantasy* (publisher's description)

Salinger, J.D. ***Catcher in the Rye***.

Shaara, Michael. ***The Killer Angels***. 1993.

Describes the Battle of Gettysburg through the eyes of Lee, Longstreet, and others who fought there. *historical fiction*

Shaffer, Mary Ann; Barrows, Annie. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***. 2008.

As London is emerging from the shadow of World War II, writer Juliet Ashton discovers her next subject in a book club on Guernsey--a club born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi after its members are discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island. *historical fiction*

Steinbeck, John. ***East of Eden***. 1952.

A family saga and a modern retelling of the book of Genesis. *classic* (publisher's description)

Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. 1939.

The story of a farm family's Depression-era journey from the Dustbowl of Oklahoma to the California migrant labor camps in search of a better life. *classic* (publisher's description)

Stockett, Kathryn. ***The Help***. 2009.

In Jackson, Mississippi, in 1962, there are lines that are not crossed. With the civil rights movement exploding all around them, three women start a movement of their own, forever changing a town and the way women -- black and white, mothers and daughters -- view one another. *historical fiction*

Vonnegut, Kurt. ***Slaughterhouse Five; or The Children's Crusade***. 1969.

Billy Pilgrim serves as a chaplain's assistant in the Second World War, is captured by the Germans, and survives the fire bombing of Dresden to contemplate the human condition. *science fiction*

Wall, Jeannette. ***The Glass Castle: A Memoir***. 2005. *****student recommended!*****

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Wolff, Tobias. ***This Boy's Life***. 1989.

Wolff's account of his boyhood and the process of growing up includes paper routes, whiskey, scouting, fistfights, friendship, and betrayal in 1950s America. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

All plot synopses courtesy of the Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program, unless otherwise noted.

12th Grade
Suggested Summer Reading

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. 1813.

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters. *classic*

Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. 2003.

The author traces the Big Bang through the rise of civilization, documenting his work with a host of the world's most advanced scientists and mathematicians to explain why things are the way they are. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Carter, Forrest. *The Education of Little Tree*. 1976.

Little Tree is an 8-year-old Cherokee boy, who, during the time of the depression, loses his parents and goes to live with his mountain dwelling grandparents and learn the wisdom of the Cherokee way of life. *historical fiction* (publisher's description)

Conlon, Edward. *Blue Blood*. 2004.

Harvard-educated Edward Conlon is fourth-generation NYPD. Having ascended the ranks from South Bronx beat cop to detective, he knows the city as well as any person can. And what's more--he knows how to tell the stories that bring the city to life as no book ever has. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Dunn, Mark. *Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters*. 2001.

Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living on a fictional island where certain letters of the alphabet are banned and as they are dropped they also are dropped from the actual book. *fiction* (publisher's description)

Hesse, Herman. *Siddhartha*. 1922.

This allegorical novel, set in sixth-century India around the time of the Buddha, follows a young man on his search for enlightenment. *classic* (publisher's description)

Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. 2007

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in wartorn Kabul, losses incurred over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage. *realistic fiction* (publisher's description)

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go*. 2003.

Kathy, Ruth and Tommy were pupils at Hailsham, an idyllic establishment situated deep in the English countryside. The children there were tenderly sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe they were special. But for what reason were they really there? It is only years later that Kathy, now aged 31, finally allows herself to yield to the pull of memory. *science fiction* (publisher's description)

Kidd, Sue Monk. ***Secret Life of Bees***. 2002.

After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters. *historical fiction*

Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***The Namesake***. 2003

When his Indian immigrant parents give him an odd name, a boy must struggle towards manhood suffering the burdens of this name as well as the conflicting loyalties of his heritage. *realistic fiction*

Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game***. 2006

Follows one young man from his impoverished childhood with a crack-addicted mother, through his discovery of the sport of football, to his rise to become one of the most successful, highly-paid players in the NFL. *non-fiction*

Pausch, Randy. ***The Last Lecture***. 2008

The author, a computer science professor diagnosed with terminal cancer, explores his life, the lessons that he has learned, how he has worked to achieve his childhood dreams, and the effect of his diagnosis on him and his family. *non-fiction*

Sederis, David. ***Me Talk Pretty One Day***. 2000.

In a collection of essays, observations, and commentaries, the humorist describes his recent move to Paris, life as an American in Paris, his struggle to learn French, his family, and restaurant meals. *non-fiction*

All plot synopses courtesy of the Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program, unless otherwise noted.

12th Grade Advanced Placement Required Summer Reading

Students entering 12th grade AP English must read the two following texts:

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. 1970.

“Probably Garcia Marquez’s finest and most famous work, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women – brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul – this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.” - from the Harper Perennial / Modern Classics edition of the novel, 2006

Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. 1989

In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys—best friends—are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy’s mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn’t believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God’s instrument. What happens to Owen, after that 1953 foul ball, is extraordinary and terrifying.