



## 2026 SUMMER READING

ENTERING GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12 (CIRCLE ONE)

- Students entering 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are expected to read 1 book over the summer.
- The choice of books is listed below.
- August 28, 2026: Students will turn in their Book Report to their English teachers and will be counted as a formative assessment.

### **Summer Reading 2026:**

- Each grade level has a selection of books assigned, and students can choose a book from the selection that they feel most interesting.
- The books assigned can be obtained from the Fall River library and other public libraries located either in/near the town you live in.

### **Public Library Card**

- We are advocating that you obtain a library card if you don't already have one.
- Having a library card will give you the opportunity to check online if the book you want to read is available and even allow you to place a hold on the book at the library of your choice.

### Important Considerations: Searching the SAILS Library Network Catalog:

- You may need to sign in to the SAILS or Commonwealth catalog with your library card and PIN to place holds or requests.
- Check the library's website or catalog for specific instructions on requesting items and setting up notifications for availability.

To check the availability of a book at the Fall River Public Library, start by searching the SAILS Library Network catalog. You can find this catalog on the library's website or by visiting a library computer. If the book isn't available in SAILS, check the Commonwealth Catalog for a wider statewide search. You can also request interlibrary loans if the book isn't in either catalog.

### **Here's a more detailed breakdown:**

#### 1. Search the SAILS Library Network catalog:

- Go to the SAILS Library Network website or access it via a library computer.
- Search for the book title.
- The search results will show if the book is available at any libraries in the SAILS network, including the Fall River Public Library.
- If available, you can usually place a hold or request the item for pickup at a convenient location.





- The Commonwealth Catalog includes holdings from many Massachusetts public and academic libraries.
- If available, you can place a hold or request the item.

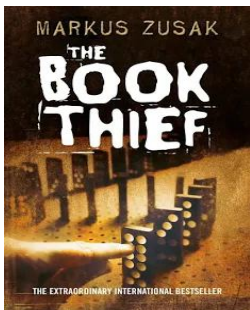
**3. If not in either catalog, request an interlibrary loan:**

- If the book is not found in either the SAILS or Commonwealth catalog, you can request it through interlibrary loan.
- Contact the Fall River Public Library via email ([illfrm@sailsinc.org](mailto:illfrm@sailsinc.org)) with the book's information to submit an interlibrary loan request.

**Grade Level Book Choices:**

**8th Grade to 9th Grade:**

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (on Learning Ally)**

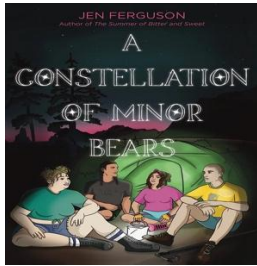


**#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST YA BOOKS OF ALL TIME • A NEW YORK TIMES READER TOP 100 PICK FOR BEST BOOKS OF THE 21ST CENTURY • A KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK OF THE CENTURY**

The extraordinary, beloved novel about the ability of books to feed the soul even in the darkest of times.  
*When Death has a story to tell, you listen.*

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. “The kind of book that can be life changing.” —*The New York Times*.

**A Constellation of Minor Bears Hardcover – September 24, 2024**  
by **Jen Ferguson** (Author)



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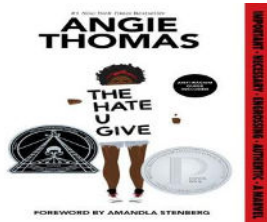
A *USA Today* Bestseller Award-winning author Jen Ferguson has written a powerful story about teens grappling with balancing resentment with enduring friendship—and how to move forward with a life that’s not what they’d imagined.

Before that awful Saturday, Molly used to be inseparable from her brother, Hank, and his best friend, Tray. The indoor climbing accident that left Hank with a traumatic brain injury filled Molly with anger.

While she knows the accident wasn’t Tray’s fault, she will never forgive him for being there and failing to stop the damage. But she can’t forgive herself for *not* being there either.

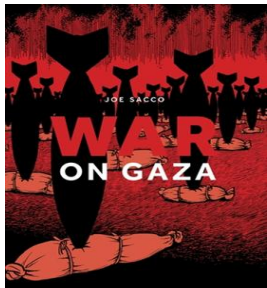
Determined to go on the trio’s post graduation hike of the Pacific Crest Trail, even without Hank, Molly packs her bag. But when her parents put Tray in charge of looking out for her, she is stuck backpacking with the person who incites her easy anger. Despite all her planning, the trail she’ll walk has a few more twists and turns ahead. . . .

## The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (on Learning Ally)



Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death made a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

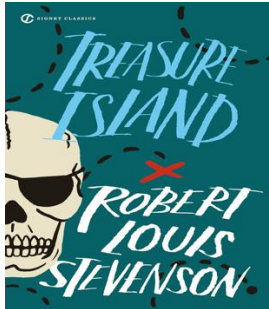
## War on Gaza by Joe Sacco



A timely satirical broadside on Israel's genocidal campaign against Gaza by the most acclaimed comics journalist working today. Joe Sacco is well known as an unflinching chronicler of the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people (*Palestine*, 1993; *Footnotes in Gaza*, 2010). He continues this mission with *War on Gaza*, a series of graphic commentaries on Israel's rampage that began more than a year ago and continues relentlessly today. Published in installments on *The Comics Journal's* website, *War on Gaza* is a series of comics and single-panel illustrations that lay bare the naked immorality of the "war" itself and its dire and tragic consequences. Employing his trademark combination of honesty, compassion, and dark humor, Sacco's *War on Gaza* is an uncompromising critique of Israel's genocide and the complicity of President Joe Biden and the United States.

## 9th Grade to 10th Grade:

### Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (Learning Ally)

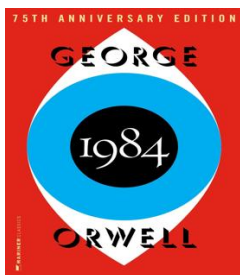


Robert Louis Stevenson's rousing seafaring classic.

*"Fifteen men on a dead man's chest—  
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"*

For sheer storytelling delight and pure adventure, *Treasure Island* has never been surpassed. From young Jim Hawkins's first encounter with the sinister beggar Pew to the climactic battle with the most memorable villain in literature, Long John Silver, this novel has fired readers' imaginations for generations. A rousing tale of treachery, greed, and daring, *Treasure Island* continues to enthrall readers of all ages.

### 1984 by George Orwell (Learning Ally)

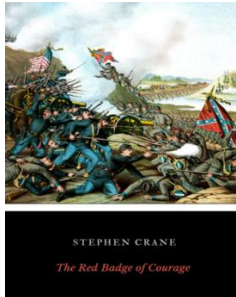


*"Orwell saw, to his credit, that the act of falsifying reality is only secondarily a way of changing perceptions. It is, above all, a way of asserting power."*—*The New Yorker*

In *1984*, London is a grim city in the totalitarian state of Oceania where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind. Winston Smith is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

Lionel Trilling said of Orwell's masterpiece "1984 is a profound, terrifying, and wholly fascinating book. It is a fantasy of the political future, and like any such fantasy, serves its author as a magnifying device for an examination of the present." Though the year 1984 now exists in the past, Orwell's novel remains an urgent call for the individual willing to speak truth to power.

### **The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane (Learning Ally)**

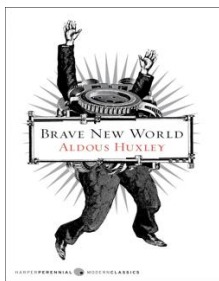


Praise for *The Red Badge of Courage*:

"One should be forever slow in charging an author with genius, but it must be confessed that *The Red Badge of Courage* is open to the suspicion of having greater power and originality than can be girdled by the name of talent."

"A true book; true to life, whether it be taken as a literal transcript of a soldier's experiences in his first battle, or... a great parable of the inner battle which every man must fight."

### **Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (Learning Ally)**



Now more than ever: Aldous Huxley's enduring masterwork must be read and understood by anyone concerned with preserving the human spirit

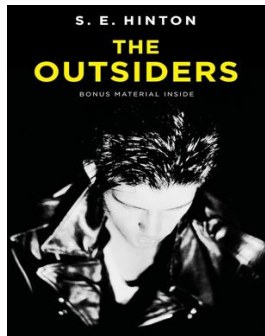
"A masterpiece. ... One of the most prophetic dystopian works." —*Wall Street Journal*

Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an

authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls. “A genius [who] who spent his life decrying the onward march of the Machine” (*The New Yorker*), Huxley was a man of incomparable talents: equally an artist, a spiritual seeker, and one of history’s keenest observers of human nature and civilization. *Brave New World*, his masterpiece, has enthralled and terrified millions of readers, and retains its urgent relevance to this day as both a warning to be heeded as we head into tomorrow and as thought-provoking, satisfying work of literature. Written in the shadow of the rise of fascism during the 1930s, *Brave New World* likewise speaks to a 21st-century world dominated by mass-entertainment, technology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, the arts of persuasion, and the hidden influence of elites.

"Aldous Huxley is the greatest 20th century writer in English." —*Chicago Tribune*

## **The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton (Learning Ally)**



Over 50 years of an iconic classic! The international bestseller-- a heroic story of friendship and belonging.

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

*The Outsiders* is a dramatic and enduring work of fiction that laid the groundwork for the YA genre. S. E. Hinton's classic story of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was first published. "*The Outsiders* transformed young-adult fiction from a genre mostly about prom queens, football players and high school crushes to one that portrayed a darker, truer world." —*The New York Times*

"Taut with tension, filled with drama." —*The Chicago Tribune*

"[A] classic coming-of-age book." —*Philadelphia Daily News*

A *New York Herald Tribune* Best Teenage Book

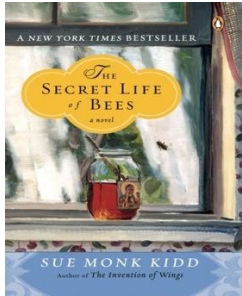
A *Chicago Tribune* Book World Spring Book Festival Honor Book

An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

Winner of the Massachusetts Children's Book Award

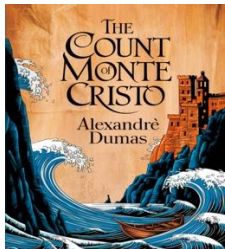
## **10th Grade to 11th Grade:**

### **The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (Learning Ally)**



The multi-million bestselling novel about a young girl's journey towards healing and the transforming power of love, from the award-winning author of *The Invention of Wings* and *The Book of Longings*. Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted Black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of Black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

### **The Count Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas (Learning Ally)**



**Embark on an Epic Journey of Revenge and Redemption**

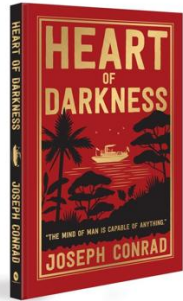
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas is a timeless masterpiece of adventure, betrayal, and ultimate justice. This sweeping tale of vengeance and forgiveness has captivated readers since its first publication in 1844.

**The Story of Edmond Dantès**

Falsely accused of treason, Edmond Dantès is imprisoned in the dreaded Château d'If. After a daring escape, he uncovers a vast treasure

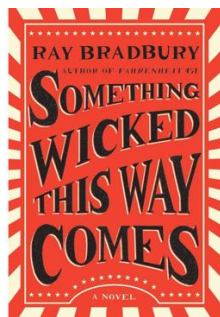
and reinvents himself as the enigmatic Count of Monte Cristo. Using his newfound wealth and power, he embarks on a quest to destroy those who wronged him, while grappling with questions of justice, morality, and the price of vengeance.

### **Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad (Learning Ally)**



A timeless masterpiece that delves into the enigmatic abyss of human nature, exposing the shadows that lie within. Conrad's evocative prose transports you to an uncharted realm, where morality battles the allure of power. Prepare for a gripping exploration of the human psyche that transcends time. Often exploring the dark aspects of human nature, Conrad narrates the clash of cultures. *An Enigmatic Journey Through the Layers of Humanity*  
*A timeless postcolonial literature novel. Offers scathing critiques of European colonialism. Explores themes of corruption, imperialism, and the capacity for evil within individuals A collector's item or a special gift. A must-read for anyone seeking a deep and introspective literary experience.*

### **Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury (Learning Ally)**

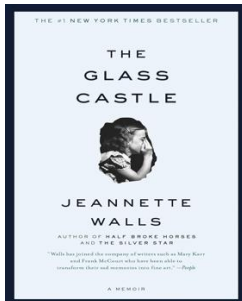


For those who still dream and remember, for those yet to experience the hypnotic power of its dark poetry, step inside. The show is about to begin. Cooger & Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show has come to Green Town, Illinois, to destroy every life touched by its strange and sinister mystery. The carnival rolls in sometime after midnight, ushering in Halloween a week early. A calliope's shrill siren song beckons to all with a seductive promise of dreams and youth regained. Two boys will discover the secret of its

smoke, mazes, and mirrors; two friends who will soon know all too well the heavy cost of wishes...and the stuff of nightmares. Few novels have endured in the heart and memory as has Ray Bradbury's unparalleled literary masterpiece *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. Scary and suspenseful, it is a timeless classic in the American canon.

## **11th Grade to 12th Grade:**

### **The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (Learning Ally)**



**THE BELOVED #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER—FROM THE AUTHOR OF *HANG THE MOON***

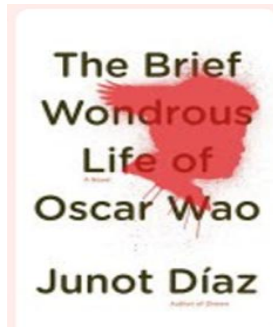
The extraordinary, one-of-a-kind, “nothing short of spectacular” (*Entertainment Weekly*) memoir from one of the world’s most gifted storytellers.

*The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette’s brilliant and charismatic father captured his children’s imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn’t want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

*The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

## **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz (Learning Ally)**



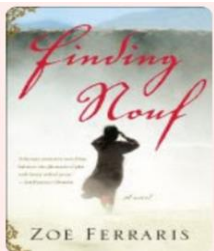
One of *The New York Times*'s 100 Best Books of the 21st Century

One of the best books of 2007 according to: *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *New York Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *People*, *The Village Voice*, *Time Out New York*, *Salon*, *Baltimore City Paper*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, New York Public Library, and many more...

Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* and named one of *The Atlantic*'s Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old-world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican American history, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere—and risk it all—in the name of love.

## **Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris (Learning Ally)**



A Palestinian P.I. investigates the death of a pregnant Saudi teenager in a mystery that offers “a fascinating glimpse into the workings...of Saudi society” (*Publishers Weekly*).