

**Cranston Public Schools  
2010 Summer Reading Suggestions  
High School**

**\* 2011 Rhode Island Teen Book Award nominees**

**FICTION**

**Alexie, Sherman. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.** Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.

\* **Anderson, Laurie Halse. Chains: Seeds of America.** Isabel, a young slave in New York, searches for a way to escape her cruel masters during the American Revolution.

\* **Anderson, Laurie Halse. Wintergirls.** Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

**Benway, Robin. Audrey, Wait!** Audrey Cuttler's life is turned upside down when her ex-boyfriend's song about their break up hits the top of the charts.

\* **Burg, Ann E. All the Broken Pieces: a Novel in Verse.** Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

**Boyne, John. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable.** Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

\* **Cantor, Jillian. September Sisters.** A teenaged girl tries to keep her family and herself together after the disappearance of her younger sister.

\* **Cashore, Kristin. The Graceling.** In a world where some people are born with fearsome skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

**Collins, Suzanne. Hunger Games.** Katniss Everdeen becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a competition in which young boys and girls struggle against one another in a televised fight to the death. **2010 Rhode Island Teen Book Award winner.**

**Dowd, Siobhan. Bog Child.** Eighteen-year-old Fergus is distracted from his upcoming A-level exams by his imprisoned brother's hunger strike, the stress of smuggling for terrorists, and dreams of a murdered girl whose body he discovered in a bog.

**Fletcher, Christine. Ten Cents a Dance.** In 1941, Ruby, a fifteen-year-old Polish-American girl from the slums of Chicago, quits her job in a meat-packing plant to become a dime-a-dance "taxi" dancer, and becomes entangled with the mob.

\* **Going, K. L. King of the Screwups.** Liam Geller is one of the most popular boys in school but can't seem to do anything right in the eyes of his father; so he goes to live with his homosexual, rocker uncle who helps him to understand that there is much more to him than his father will ever see.

\* **Harter, Brent. Project Sweet Life.** When their fathers insist that they get summer jobs, three fifteen-year-old friends in Tacoma, Washington, dedicate their summer vacation to fooling their parents into thinking that they are working, which proves to be even harder than having real jobs would have been.

\* **Lacour, Nina. Hold Still.** Caitlin wrestles with her feelings of devastation and helplessness after her friend Ingrid commits suicide, and she turns to her family and newfound friends for help while encountering love, broadening her horizons, and using Ingrid's journal to heal.

\* **Lo, Melinda. Ash.** A variation on the Cinderella story in which a girl named Ash grows up believing in the fairy realm that the king and his philosophers have sought to suppress.

\* **Madigan, L. K. Flash Burnout.** After taking a photograph of a woman living on the streets and discovering she is his friend's meth-addicted mother, Blake is torn between being there for his friend or his girlfriend.

**Shusterman, Neal. Unwind.** Three teens attempt a cross-country escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

\* **Westerfield, Scott. Leviathan.** In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

\* **Williams, Carol Lynch. Chosen One.** In a polygamous cult in the desert, Kyra, not yet fourteen, sees being chosen to be the seventh wife of her uncle as just punishment for having read books and kissed a boy in violation of Prophet Childs' teachings, and is torn between facing her fate and running away from all that she knows and loves.

**Zadoff, Allen. Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have.** Fifteen-year-old Andrew Zansky, the second fattest student at his high school, joins the varsity football team to get the attention of a new girl on whom he has a crush.

## **NON-FICTION**

**Heiligman, Deborah. Charles and Emma: the Darwins' Leap of Faith.** This biography of famous scientist examines the impact differing religious beliefs had on his family's relationships.

\* **Kuklin, Susan. No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row.** A collection of essays in which inmates at American prisons who were sentenced to death while still in their teens share their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up in prison and how they feel about capital punishment.

**Lange, Karen E. Nevermore: a Photobiography of Edgar Allen Poe.** A photographic biography chronicling the life of Romantic author and poet Edgar Allan Poe, with images capturing key moments and phases in his life and highlighting his literary influence.

**Li, Moying Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution** Studying at a prestigious language school in Beijing, Moying Li seems destined for a promising future, but everything changes when student Red Guards orchestrate brutal assaults, public humiliations and forced confessions throughout the country.

\* **Mariatu, Kamara, with Susan McClelland. The Bite of the Mango.** Mariatu Kamara tells how she, a twelve-year-old, survived rape, torture and maiming during the civil war in Sierra Leone.

**Meyers, Walter Dean. Sunrise over Fallujah**

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

**Morelli, Jack. Heroes of the Negro Leagues.** Profiles of sixty Negro League players, each accompanied by a watercolor portrait, many originally published as trading cards in 1990. The DVD documentary "Only the Ball Was White," a history of the Negro Leagues, complements the book.

**Neufeld, Josh. A.D. : New Orleans After the Deluge.** This stunning graphic novel follows six residents of New Orleans from the hours before Katrina strikes to its aftermath, plainly showing both the undeniable horrors and the humanitarianism triggered by the hurricane.

**Partridge, Elizabeth. Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary.** A tense account of the Freedom March of 1965, showing how teenagers were crucial to the spirit and drive of the march.

**Raddatz, Martha The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family**

Chronicles the events of an April 2004 surprise attack on American troops in Sadr City, Iraq; and provides personal accounts of soldiers in battle and their families and friends waiting for news at home.

**Regis, Margaret. When Our Mothers Went to War: an Illustrated History of Women in World War II.** An illustrated history of the challenges faced by women in the U.S. on the home front and in the war zone during WWII as pilots, shipbuilders, flight nurses, military recruits, OSS agents, and in other roles as they kept the nation running, salvaged resources, and more.

**Simpson, MacKinnon. Hawai'i Homefront : life in the Islands During World War II.** An illustrated exploration of what life was like on the Hawaiian Islands during World War II, and describes the memories of civilian workers, Navy pilots, housewives, Red Cross volunteers, and others.

\* **Smithson, Ryan. Ghosts of War: The Story of a 19-Year-Old GI.** Ryan Smithson recounts the experiences he had serving his first tour of duty as an Army engineer in Iraq when he was only nineteen.

**Stone, Tanya Lee. Almost astronauts : the True Story of the "Mercury 13" Women.** The story of the ultimately unsuccessful effort to get women into NASA's Mercury astronaut training program.

**Walker, Sally M. Written in Bone : Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland.** A report on the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand the people who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s.

**Walters, Eric. When Elephants Fight : the Lives of Children in Conflict in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.** Provides true accounts of the lives of five children growing up in the midst of war in Sri Lanka, Uganda, Sarajevo, Afghanistan, and the Sudan, and examines the history of each conflict.