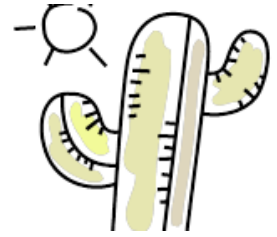


Rhinebeck High School
Summer Reading
2011



Annotated List

Annotations from the Library of Congress

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 Indian is the school mascot. Interest level 8-12.

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. Interest level 9-12.

Anderson, M. T. *Feed.*

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who wants to control herself. Interest level 8-12.

Anderson, M.T. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to the Nation: Vol. 1: The Pox Party.*

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. Interest level 9-12.

Blackman, Malorie. *Naughts and Crosses.*

Despite the rules of the land, Callum, a second-class white citizen, and Sephy, a black Cross, love one another and want to be together, but when Callum rescues Sephy from an explosion and is caught on tape, Sephy's powerful father seeks to have Callum hanged for their relationship. Interest level 8-12.

Braff, Joshua. *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green.*

Jacob Green, a young Jewish boy growing up in 1970s suburban New Jersey, struggles to deal with his fear of disappointing and yearning to escape the demands and expectations of his tyrannical and narcissistic father, Abram. Interest level 11-adult.

Bray, Libba. *A Great and Terrible Beauty.*

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world. Interest level 8-12.

Buckhanon, Kalisha. *Upstate*.

In jail after being charged with his father's murder, seventeen-year-old Antonio finds his love with sixteen-year-old Natasha tested and engages in a ten-year correspondence with her from behind bars. Interest level 11-adult.

Budhos, Marina. *Ask Me No Questions*.

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family. Interest level 7-10.

Caletti, Deb. *Honey, Baby, Sweetheart*.

In the summer of her junior year, sixteen-year-old Ruby McQueen and her mother set out on a journey to reunite an elderly woman with her long-lost love and in the process learn about "the real ties that bind" people to one another. Interest level 9-12.

Chambers, Aidan. *Postcards from No Man's Land*.

Alternates between two stories--contemporarily, seventeen-year-old Jacob visits a daunting Amsterdam at the request of his English grandmother--and historically, nineteen-year-old Geertrui relates her experience of British soldiers' attempts to liberate Holland from its German occupation. Interest level 9-12.

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a high-schooler named Charlie. Interest level 11-adult.

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Interest level 11-adult.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*.

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students. Interest level 8-12.

Cox, Elizabeth. *The Slow Moon*.

When Sophie, a precocious high school sophomore, is raped in the woods, a crime that shocks her into a state of amnesia, her boyfriend, Crow, is tried for a crime he did not commit. Interest level 9-adult.

Danticat, Edwidge. *The Farming of Bones*.

In 1937, on the Dominican side of the Haitian border, Amabelle, an orphaned maid to an army colonel's wife, falls in love with Sebastien, an itinerant sugarcane cutter, but their relationship is threatened by the violent persecution of the Haitians. Interest level 11-adult.

Dessen, Sarah. *Just Listen*.

Suddenly unpopular sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life. Interest level 8-12.

Dessen, Sarah, *Someone Like You*.

Halley's junior year of high school includes the death of her best friend Scarlett's boyfriend, the discovery that Scarlett is pregnant, and Halley's own first serious relationship. Interest level 7-12.

Dole, Mayra Lazara. *Down to the Bone*.

Laura is thrown out of her house when her mother discovers she is a lesbian, but after trying to change her heart and hide from the truth, Laura finally comes to terms with who she is and learns to love and respect herself. Interest level 9-12.

Donoghue, Emma. *Room*.

A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager. Interest level 11-adult.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*.

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story. Interest level 9-12.

Fisher, Catherine. *Incarceron*.

To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape. Interest level 9-12.

Frank, E.R. *Wrecked*.

After a car accident seriously injures her best friend and kills her brother's girlfriend, sixteen-year-old Anna tries to cope with her guilt and grief, while learning some truths about her family and herself. Interest level 8-12.

Freymann-Weyr, Garret. *My Heartbeat*.

As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, fourteen-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing. Interest level 9-12.

Frost, Helen. *Keesha's House*.

Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again. Interest level 8-12.

The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing About Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Other Identities. Edited by David Levithan and Billy Merrell. A collection of original poems, essays, and stories by young adults in their teens and early twenties explores many sexual issues, including coming out, first kisses, break-ups, religion/faith, and friendship. Interest level 8-12.

Galloway, Greg. *As Simple as Snow.*

In awe of high school girl Anna Cayne and her penchant for affectionate magic tricks and riddles, a man is baffled by her mysterious disappearance just before Valentine's Day and retraces the time they spent together for clues to her fate. Interest level 11-adult.

Gottlieb, Lori. *Stick Figure: A Diary of my Former Self.*

Based on diaries written in 1978, when she was eleven years old, the author offers a chronicle of her battle with anorexia and the pressures from family, peers, and society that led her to starve herself. Interest level 9-adult.

Green, John. *Looking for Alaska.*

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. Interest level 9-12.

Gruen, Sara. *Water for Elephants.*

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope. Interest level 9-adult.

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

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. Interest level 10-adult.

Halpin, Brendan. *Donorboy.*

After the deaths of her mother and her lesbian lover in an accident, Rosalind, a troubled teen, finds herself living with Sean, the sperm-donor father she has never met, who takes on the task of caring for a grieving teenager. Interest level 10-adult.

Hartlinger, Brent. *Geography Club.*

A group of gay and lesbian teenagers finds mutual support when they form the "Geography Club" at their high school. Interest level 9-12.

Hartnett, Sonya. *Surrender.*

As he is dying, a twenty-year-old man known as Gabriel recounts his troubled childhood and his strange relationship with a dangerous counterpart named Finnigan. Interest level 9-12.

Hautman, Pete. *Godless*.

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own. Interest level 7-12.

Hautman, Pete. *Sweetblood*.

After a lifetime of being a model student, sixteen-year-old Lucy Szabo is suddenly in trouble at school, at home, with the "proto-vampires" she has met online and in person, and most of all with her uncontrolled diabetes. Interest level 8-12.

Hill, Joe, art by Gabriel Rodriguez. *Locke & Key : Vol. 1 : Welcome to Lovecraft*.

A graphic novel that follows the Locke family as they struggle to rebuild their lives after their father is murdered by a high school student. Hell breaks loose when the youngest Locke discovers a doorway in their new home in Maine. Interest level adult.

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*.

The author retraces the journey of Seabiscuit, a horse with crooked legs and a pathetic tail that made racing history in 1938, thanks to the efforts of a trainer, owner, and jockey who transformed a bottom-level racehorse into a legend. Interest level 10-adult.

Hillman, Laura. *I Will Plant you a Lilac Tree*.

Presents the true story of a young girl from a Polish ghetto who was sent to a series of concentration camps and survived the war after being placed on Schindler's List, finally marrying a fellow survivor. Interest level 8-12.

Hoffman, Alice. *Incantation*.

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic. Interest level 7-12.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*.

Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day. Interest level 11-adult.

Howe, James. *Totally Joe*.

As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography--life from A to Z--and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager. Interest level 6-8.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go*.

A reunion with two childhood friends draws Kathy and her companions on a nostalgic odyssey into their lives at Hailsham, an isolated private school in the English countryside, and

a confrontation with the truth about their childhoods. Interest level 11-adult.

Jackson, Livia Bitton. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust.*
Interest level 7-9.

Johnson, Angela. *The First Part Last.*

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. Interest level 8-12.

Kass, Pnina Moed. *Real Time.*

Sixteen-year-old Tomas Wanninger persuades his mother to let him leave Germany to volunteer at a kibbutz in Israel, where he experiences a violent political attack and finds answers about his own past. Interest level 8-12.

Katcher, Brian. *Almost Perfect.*

With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student who keeps a big secret arrives at his small-town Missouri high school. Interest level 9-12.

King, A.S. *Please Ignore Vera Dietz.*

When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name. Interest level 9-12.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees.*

Young, bright Taylor Greer leaves her poverty-stricken life in Kentucky and heads west, picking up an abandoned Native American baby girl whom she names Turtle and finds a new home in Tucson with Mattie, an old woman who takes in Central American refugees. Interest level 11-adult.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Poisonwood Bible.*

The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades. Interest level 11-adult.

Klass, David. *Dark Angel.*

When his older brother is released from prison, seventeen-year-old Jeff's family secret is revealed, causing upheaval in his home, school, and love life. Interest level 8-12.

Lamb, Wally. *She's Come Undone.*

Overweight and sensitive Dolores Price grows from painful childhood, through excruciating adolescence, to lonely adulthood, experiencing the heartache of being a misfit in a confusing

world. Interest level 11-adult.

Larson, Erik. *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America.*

An account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 relates the stories of two men who shaped the history of the event--architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and serial killer Herman Mudgett. Interest level 11-adult.

Latifa (pseud.). *My Forbidden Face: Growing Up Under the Taliban.* Interest level YA-adult.

Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy.*

When Paul falls hard for Noah, he thinks he has found his one true love, but when Noah walks out of his life, Paul has to find a way to get him back and make everything right once more. Interest level 9-12.

Lubar, David. *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.*

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer. Interest level 7-10.

Lynch, Chris. *Inexcusable.*

High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong. Interest level 9-12.

Mackler, Carolyn. *The Earth, My Butt, and other Big Round Things.*

Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, fifteen-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her. Interest level 9-12.

Marchetta, Melina. *Jellicoe Road.*

High school student Taylor Markham, who was abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of eleven, struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia. Interest level 10-12.

Martel, Yann. *The Life of Pi.*

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain. Interest level 11-adult.

McCormick, Patricia. *Cut*.

While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better. Interest level 8-12.

McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*.

When she is tricked by her stepfather and sold into prostitution, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi becomes submerged in a nightmare where her only comfort is the friendship she forms with the other girls, which helps her survive and eventually escape. Interest level 9-12.

McNamee, Graham. *Acceleration*.

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him. Interest level 9-12.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful*.

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself. Interest level 7-12.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*.

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. Interest level 7-12.

Paulsen, Gary. *Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod*.

This account of one man's obsession with racing dogs and running the Iditarod, the famous dog-sled race across Alaska, recalls his journey through the barren, moon-like, arctic terrain. Interest level 10-adult.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Luna*.

Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body. Interest level 9-12.

Pfeffer, Susan. *Life as We Knew it*.

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Interest level 7-12.

Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister's Keeper*.

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. Interest level 10-adult.

Prose, Francine. *After*.

In the aftermath of a nearby school shooting, a grief and crisis counselor takes over Central High School and enacts increasingly harsh measures to control students, while those who do not comply disappear. Interest level 6-10.

Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now*.

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land. Interest level 9-12.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*.

The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life. (Graphic novel) Interest level 10-adult.

Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson. *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*. Examines the fast food industry with facts about its evolution and practices, the effects of fast food consumption on public health, and the international success of fast food. Interest level 6-9.

Sebold, Alice. *The Lovely Bones*.

The spirit of fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon describes her murder, her surprise at her new home in heaven, and her witness to her family's grief, efforts to find the killer, and attempts to come to terms with what has happened. Interest level 11-adult.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Notes from a Midnight Driver*.

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness. Interest level 8-12.

Soto, Gary. *The Afterlife*.

A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance. Interest level 7-12.

Stein, Garth. *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

Evaluating his life on the eve of his death, atypical canine Enzo considers the sacrifices his master, Denny Swift, has made in his pursuit of becoming a professional race car driver, and the dog's own efforts to preserve the Swift family. Interest level 10-adult.

Straight, Susan. *A Million Nightingales.*

When she is sold away from her family, Moinette begins to prepare herself for an escape to freedom, journeying through a world of brutality, sexual violence, loss, and struggle to find her way out of the bonds of slavery. Interest level adult.

Taylor, Laini. *Lips Touch Three Times.*

A collection of three stories about girls who have never been in the spotlight but dream of finding love. Each girl must risk supernatural consequences if they are to experience their heart's desire. Interest level 9-12.

Teller, Janne. *Nothing.*

When thirteen-year-old Pierre Anthon leaves school to sit in a plum tree and train for becoming part of nothing, his seventh grade classmates set out on a desperate quest for the meaning of life. Interest level 9-12.

Thal, Lilli. *Mimus.* Interest level 8-12.

Vaughan, Brian. *Pride of Baghdad.*

Graphic novel. Interest level 10-adult.

Volponi, Paul. *Black and White.*

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught. Interest level 9-12.

Warman, Jessica. *Breathless.*

At boarding school, Katie tries to focus on swimming and becoming popular instead of the painful memories of her institutionalized schizophrenic older brother. Interest level 8-12.

Yancy, Rick. *The Monstrumologist.*

In 1888, twelve-year-old Will Henry chronicles his apprenticeship with Dr. Warthrop, a scientist who hunts and studies real-life monsters, as they discover and attempt to destroy a pod of Anthropophagi. Interest level 9-12.

Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere.*

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live." Interest level 7-10.

Zusak, Marcus. *The Book Thief.*

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. Interest level 9-12.