

St. Luke's Summer Reading List For Grade 9

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*. 2007. Talented Arnold Spirit leaves the reservation school to go to an academically superior one located many miles away. How he copes with this change, both at school and on the reservation, is realistic, thought provoking, and laugh-out-loud funny. National Book Award Young People's Literature 2007; Book Sense Book of the Year 2008.

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne, from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest*. 2001. Ambrose tells of the men in this brave unit who fought, went hungry, froze, and died, in a company that took 150 percent casualties and considered the Purple Heart a badge of office.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. 2009. Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder. *MT*

Anderson, M. T. *Feed*. 2004. 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.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America*. 2002. Author Barbara Ehrenreich relates her experiences from 1998 to 2000, during which time joined the ranks of the working poor as a waitress, hotel housekeeper, cleaning woman, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart clerk to see for herself how America's "unskilled" workers are able to survive on only \$6 or \$7 an hour.

Gowda, Shilpi Somaya. *Secret Daughter*. 2010. In a remote Indian village, Kavita's regret over giving her newborn daughter up for adoption haunts her even after the birth of the a more culturally-accepted son; meanwhile, Somer, an American doctor, learns that she is unable to have children and decides to adopt the baby girl with gold-flecked eyes that she sees in a Mumbai orphanage. *MT*

Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma: the Darwins' Leap of Faith*. 2009. A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the affect of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*. 1999. The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

Lansing, Alfred. *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*. 1999. Provides an account of the voyage undertaken by polar explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew aboard the Endurance in 1914-15, telling how the men survived after their ship became locked inside an island of ice and drifted for ten months before being crushed.

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi: A Novel*. 2001. Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa*. 1998. Recreates the author's boyhood experiences in South Africa.

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McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*. 2008. A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India. *MT*

Moskowitz, Tobias J. (Tobias Jacob). *Scorecasting: The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports are Played and Games are Won*. 2011. Behavioral economist Tobias Moskowitz and *Sports Illustrated* writer L. Jon Wertheim examine the driving forces that shape how sports are played, won, and lost, discussing the influence of home-field advantage, the widely-accepted belief that defense wins championships, why teams overvalue draft picks, and other related topics.

Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: a Natural History of Four Meals*. 2007. Follows the three major food chains that feed humans--industrial, organic, and hunter-gatherer--from the earth to four meals, exploring the ethical and political effects of one's food choices.

Satrapa, Marjane, *Persepolis*. 2004. Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime.

Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle*. 2003. A reprint of the 1948 novel recounting the story of Cassandra Mortmain, a young woman living on the edge of poverty in a crumbling castle with her somewhat eccentric family, whose prospects begin to improve when new neighbors arrive from America. A favorite book of J.K. Rowling.

Williams, Venus. *Come to Win: Business Leaders, Artists, Doctors, and Other Visionaries on How Sports Can Help You Top Your Profession*. 2010. Curious about life after tennis, Venus Williams started talking to other former athletes. The result is a collection of essays from a wide variety of sources – businessmen, politicians, artists, and scientists – all drawing on lessons learned through playing sports. Contributors offer advice on how to learn from losses, block out distractions, and visualize a course of action

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. 2007. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl who's book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.