

St. Luke's Summer Reading List For Grades 10-12

Ackerman, Diane. ***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story***. 2007. A dramatic true story based on a little-known chapter from Nazi Poland, Ackerman works from the diary of Antonina Zabinski. Not only was Hitler interested in human genetics but also the purity of animal breeds. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina and her director husband struggle with wartime shortages, care for the animals, their own family, and hundreds of Jews hidden at the zoo from the occupying Nazis.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Wintergirls***. 2009. A haunting story about Lia's desire to be the thinnest girl in school, her struggle with anorexia, and her path to recovery.

Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***. First published 1813. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.

Baldwin, James. ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***. First published 1953. In 1935 Harlem, young John Grimes searches for God while struggling with his identity as the stepson of a stern, evangelist preacher.

Barcott, Rye. ***It Happened on the Way to War: A Marine's Path to Peace*** 2011. United States Marine Rye Barcott describes his friendship with a widowed nurse, Tabitha Atieno Festo, and a community organizer, Salim Mohamed, that developed into a combined effort to create the organization Carolina for Kibera, which promotes participatory development.

Bartlett, Allison Hoover. ***The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession***. 2009. This true crime story discloses the world of rare book dealers, the mind of a serial book thief, and follows the detective who tracks the mysterious and obsessive culprit.

Beah, Ishmael. ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***. 2007. Twelve-year-old Ishmael first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later he is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Alex Award 2008

Bradbury, Jennifer. ***Shift***. 2008. The summer before they begin college, Chris and Win bike from West Virginia to Seattle. After a fight, and fifty miles from their goal, Win rides off while Chris changes a flat tire and simply disappears. Win's manipulative father enlists the FBI to question Chris.

Bradley, Alan C. ***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie***. 2009. A dead bird on a doorstep with a stamp stuck on its beak and a delicious trick on an older sister launch this funny and clever mystery. Flavia is isolated in the English countryside, busy practicing chemistry in her deceased mother's lab. Strange things begin to happen and Flavia is just smart enough to figure them out, but only after a host of strange characters, literary allusions, and unexpected happenings. Series

Brooks, Geraldine. ***People of the Book: A Novel***. 2008. While working on an ancient manuscript, Hanna Heath, a conservationist, traces its path through the ages and discovers her own contemporary life. National Jewish Book Award 2008

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Caletti, Deb. ***The Fortunes of Indigo Skye***. 2008. Indigo wants nothing more from life than her job as a waitress until a customer gives her \$2,500,000. Then everything changes.

Carey, Peter. ***Parrot and Olivier in America***. 2010. An imaginative re-invention of the French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville's 1830 visit to America, with rich description, strong characters and amusing events.

Chandler, Raymond. ***The Long Goodbye***. First published 1953. A classic "hardboiled" detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955

Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. 1999. In this controversial, coming-of-age novel, Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.

Coben, Harlan. ***Tell No One: A Novel***. 2001. After years of struggling with grief over his wife's murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail that includes a secret word only known to his wife and himself. Is she still alive?

Collins, Billy. *Ballistics: Poems*. 2008. A notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.

Connolly, John. ***The Book of Lost Things***. 2006. After the death of his mother, David retreats to his attic bedroom where the books on his shelf begin whispering to him, dragging him into another world. Alex Award 2007

Courtenay, Bryce. ***The Power of One: A Novel***. 1989. A weak, friendless English boy grows up in South Africa during World War II where he learns to box and finds the courage to champion the cause of injustice using the force of the Power of One.

Cronin, Justin. ***The Passage***. 2010. In a dystopian future, a virus found in a South American jungle has been used to create a super soldier with great strength and healing abilities. The virus causes an epidemic, and infected people become bloodthirsty monsters. Normal humans are hiding in fortresses trying to survive.

Danticat, Edwidge. ***Brother, I'm Dying***. 2007. In 2005, expecting her first child and facing the death of her father, Danticat relates her childhood experiences living in a loving and devoted Haitian family torn by immigration, political upheaval, and violence. A poignant and painful memoir filled with hope and grace. National Book Critics Circle Award 2007; Christopher Award 2008

Doctorow, Cory. ***Little Brother***. 2008. Surrounded by terrorism plots and lots of electronic gadgets, resistant hacker students are picked up after an attack. Their experience reflects today's fears and concerns regarding government control and the Department of Homeland Security.

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Doctorow, E. L. **Homer & Langley**. 2009. Based on the true lives of the very unusual Collyer brothers of New York City, this novel allows the reader a glimpse into the hoarding existence of anonymity of the two reclusive brothers. Both a commentary of the 1940s and, moreover, a tale of human psychology, the story is beautifully written in the voice of one of the eccentric brothers.

Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. **Crime and Punishment**. First published in Russian in 1866. Raskolnikov, a student who believes that his own intellectual and spiritual superiority places him above the masses, tests his theory of invincibility by committing murder.

Downham, Jenny. **Before I Die**. 2007. This is a touching story that draws the reader into the last months of Tessa's life after battling leukemia for four years. The reader experiences a wide range of activities from her to-do list, emotional upheaval, and thoughts told through Tessa's narrative.

Eggers, Dave. **Zeitoun**. 2009. A true account of a family caught between America's war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Following the chaos of the storm, Zeitoun travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors until the day armed men suddenly burst into his home.

Erlbaum, Janice. **Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir**. 2006. In 1983, at age fifteen, Janice Erlbaum walks away from her dangerous home life and into the streets of New York determined to make it on her own in this unflinching portrait of being underprivileged, underage, and underdressed.

Euripides. **Medea and Other Plays**. Edited and translated from the Greek by James Morwood. 1998. First produced in 431 BC, this passionate and timeless play is a story about foolish men, powerful women, and the problem of pain and suffering. Medea is willing to do the unthinkable in order to escape the unbearable.

Ferraris, Zoe. **City of Veils**. 2010. In this fascinating mystery, policeman Osama Ibrahim, forensic scientist Katya Hijazi, and Bedouin guide Nayir Sharqui investigate the murder of a young Muslim woman washed up on the shores of Jeddah beach. Series

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. **Love in the Time of Cholera**. First published in Spanish in 1988. From the Nobel Laureate comes a tale of unrequited love lasting over fifty years. Florentino Ariza has the bad grace to declare his undying love for Fermina Daza at the funeral of her husband, the illustrious physician and leader in the fight against cholera in their South American country.

Gladwell, Malcolm. **Outliers: The Story of Success**. 2008. Gladwell examines the background of extremely successful people to explore the common traits leading to their success. He compares birth date, birthplace, community values, family, and other factors to draw his conclusions.

Gordon-Reed, Annette. **The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family**. 2008. Gordon-Reed presents an in-depth view of the Hemings' family tree, relationships to Thomas Jefferson, and the life they lived at Monticello as slaves. National Book Award, Nonfiction 2008; Pulitzer Prize, History 2009

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Grann, David. ***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon.*** 2009. In 1925, Percy Fawcett, eccentric member of the Royal Geographical Society, sets out to find the treasure of El Dorado deep in the Amazon jungle where he mysteriously disappears. This story contains fascinating facts of Fawcett's quest and tells of the attempts of explorers through the years who have returned to the Amazon to solve the mystery of his disappearance and discover the elusive treasure.

Green, John. ***Paper Towns.*** 2008. Quentin idolizes his next door neighbor, Margo Roth Spiegelman. When she includes him in a wild night of revenge and then disappears, Quentin must follow the clues she has left in order to find her. Edgar Award 2009

Gruen, Sara. ***Water for Elephants: A Novel.*** 2006. Jacob Jankowski, a penniless orphan forced to drop out of veterinary school during the Great Depression, joins a traveling circus. He forges a bond with Rosie the elephant and Marlena, the beautiful star of an equestrian act, whose husband is a handsome circus boss with a violent temper. Alex Award 2007

Harmon, Michael B. ***The Last Exit to Normal.*** 2008. Ben's dad and his dad's boyfriend move to rural Montana. Ben, angry at his father's coming out and the breakup of his family, begins to reassess his life. It is hard to fit in with his spiked hair and skateboard in a country town, but Ben finds he is letting go of his anger toward people and toward the outside world. He is also worried about his neighbor's treatment of his son, so Ben confronts the line that is drawn between child abuse and discipline in a small town.

Hawking, Stephen and Leonard Mlodinow. ***The Grand Design.*** 2010. The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as "Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?" The well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.

Hopkins, Ellen. ***Identical.*** 2008. Identical twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne keep dark secrets. Their politician mother is emotionally remote, and their district court judge father is abusive. This novel in verse alternates first person descriptions of abuse, alcoholism, bulimia, drugs and mental illness. Be ready for a revelation at the end of this disturbing and insightful book.

Hosseini, Khaled. ***A Thousand Splendid Suns.*** 2007. Mariam and Laila, both married to Rasheed, form an uneasy alliance so that they and their children survive despite horrific circumstances. The story depicts Afghanistan from a woman's point of view during three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***Never Let Me Go.*** 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006

Kent, Kathleen. ***The Heretic's Daughter.*** 2008. Amid the painful details of jail and persecution, deep-seated suspicion and familial betrayal, ten-year-old Sarah Carrier's

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world is turned upside down as her family becomes a target of Salem's witchcraft hysteria.

Kenyon, Kay. ***Bright of the Sky***. 2007. A parallel universe has been discovered by voyager Titus Quinn, but he has lost his family in the process. Saving them involves finding a way back, infiltrating the society, and rising to power -- ingenuity, deceit, and luck will be required.

Kidder, Tracy. ***Mountains Beyond Mountains***. 2003. In his quest to cure the world of infectious diseases, the brilliant, charismatic Dr. Paul Farmer finds time to make house calls both in Boston and the mountains of Haiti. He blasts through convention to get results with his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity."

Krakauer, Jon. ***Into the Wild***. 1996. The true story of Christopher McCandless who abandons his familiar life, gives his entire savings account to charity, and hitchhikes to Alaska in an attempt to rebel against authority and his privileged upbringing. Four months later, his body is found in the wilderness.

Kwok, Jean. ***Girl in Translation***. 2010. When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, Kimberly quickly begins a secret double life -- exceptional schoolgirl by day, Chinatown sweatshop worker by night -- and she learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles. Alex Award 2011

Kyle, Aryn. ***God of Animals***. 2007. Alice and her father struggle to keep the family horse ranch going by boarding horses that are owned by wealthy neighbors. Pressures caused by debt, family illness, and the unrelenting work of the ranch explode and Alice must grow up quickly, making a few mistakes along the way but learning important lessons about life and being human. Alex Award 2008

Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***Unaccustomed Earths***. 2008. As with her previous Pulitzer Prize-winning collection, *Interpreter of Maladies*, Lahiri's magic lies in the warm-blooded richness with which she deftly renders each and every one of her characters, not to mention the ambiguity, joy, and grief that imbue the liminal spaces between those characters.

Levitt, Stephen D. ***Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance***. 2010. This book combines storytelling with behavioral economics, explaining many modern phenomena. It encourages readers to think about the reasons behind many of the events going on around us.

Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game.***, 2006. The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the National Football League is presented in combination with the true story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under the protection of a wealthy, loving family. Alex Award 2007

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McCarthy, Cormac. ***The Road***. 2006. In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 2007

McEwan, Ian. ***Atonement: A Novel***. 2001. In the summer of 1935, the lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl's scheming imagination.

Moalem, Sharon. ***Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease***. 2007. With fascinating insights and cutting-edge research, the author looks at evolutionary history, epigenetics, and modern medical research to try to figure out why we developed as we did.

Morrison, Toni. ***Beloved***. First published 1987. The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1988

Morton, Kate. ***The Forgotten Garden***. 2009. A generational quest for her grandmother's secret past is revealed by Cassandra's journey to Blackhurst Manor. A dramatic family saga of twists and turns.

Mullen, Thomas. ***The Last Town on Earth***. 2006. Set during the twin catastrophes of WWI and the 1918 flu epidemic, this fiction title explores the risks of trading freedom for safety in a small milling town in Commonwealth, Washington. Mullen examines the parallels with our current fear of contagious viruses, obsession with foreign operatives, and repression of political dissent.

Patchett, Ann. ***Run***. 2007. An accident during a snowstorm near the Harvard campus suddenly thrusts Mayor Bernard Doyle and his sons from their world of privilege into one of complicated and personal issues related to race, class, politics, and faith.

Pérez-Reverte, Arturo. ***The Fencing Master***. Translated from the Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa. Harcourt, 1998. Nineteenth-century fencing master, Don Jaime, finds himself drawn into a plot that includes seduction, politics, secret documents, and murder when he refuses to teach the beautiful and mysterious Dona Adela de Otero how to perform the "unstoppable thrust."

Pettersen, Per. ***Out Stealing Horses***. Translated from the Norwegian by Anne Born. Graywolf Press, 2007. In an austere style, with a series of flashbacks, a Norwegian boy finds his family and friendships unraveling as his courage grows.

Picoult, Jodi. ***Nineteen Minutes***. 2007. The residents of a small, ordinary New Hampshire town seek justice in the aftermath of a shocking school shooting carried out by a teenage boy who had been bullied since kindergarten.

Pink, Daniel H. A ***Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future***. 2005. According to Pink, the future belongs to a different kind of person with a different kind of mind: artists, inventors, storytellers—creative and holistic "right-brain" thinkers whose abilities mark the fault line between who gets ahead and who does not.

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Rosnay, Tatiana de. ***Sarah's Key***. 2007. Location: Paris. Time: July 16, 1942. Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment. Sixty years later, on the anniversary of the roundup, Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this dark episode and embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and Sarah's ordeal.

Savage, Dan and Terry Miller. ***It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living***. 2011. A collection of expanded essays and new material from celebrities, everyday people and teens who have posted videos of encouragement, as well as new contributors who have yet to post videos to the site. By sharing these stories, *It Gets Better* reminds teenagers in the LGBT community that they are not alone - and it WILL get better.

Sides, Hampton. ***Hellhound On His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt For His Assassin***. 2010. The behind-the-scenes narrative about the lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Earl Ray tells a story that was never covered in the headlines of the time. A nonfiction page-turner.

Simic, Charles. ***The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late & New Poems***. 2003. These poems convey vivid and quirky imagery. From Sunday Papers to Frightening Toys to Blood Orange, the originality and sly humor of "everydayness" cheers the reader of this award-winning poet's work.

Simonson, Helen. ***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand***. 2010. Major Ernest Pettigrew, an honor-bound Englishman, the very embodiment of duty and pride, finds himself drawn into an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Based on their shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, their friendship soon blossoms. Can their relationship survive the risks of pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?

Skloot, Rebecca. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***. 2010. "HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks' treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world. A complex and fascinating drama -- a mixture of science and biography with profound themes of racism, ethics, and scientific illiteracy.

Small, David. ***Stitches: A Memoir***. 2009. David Small grew up in the 1950s in a dysfunctional family with an angry mother and an emotionally distant father. This graphic novel by Small, a Caldecott winning illustrator, about the redemptive value of art, is filled with sadness and dark humor. Alex Award 2010

Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. ***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich***. First published in Russian in 1962. Although innocent of any crime, Ivan Denisovich Shukhov is convicted of treason and sentenced to serve ten years in a Soviet work camp in Siberia.

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Stein, Garth. ***The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel***. 2008. Enzo is an old soul who just happens to be a dog. He is devoted to Denny who is a race car driver. The reader will be captivated as Enzo tells his master's story and prepares for his next life...as a human.

Steinbeck, John. ***The Grapes of Wrath***. First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of Oklahoma farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1940

Stockett, Kathryn. ***The Help***. 2009. College graduate Skeeter Phelan, a white twenty-four-year-old social misfit and an aspiring writer, decides to secretly compile the untold stories of black domestic workers in her hometown of Jackson, Mississippi. Her fellow conspirators, two black women, Aibileen and Minny, risk their lives and livelihoods in the racially charged South of the 1960s to help collect the interviews she seeks.

Szyborska, Wislawa. ***Monologue of a Dog: New Poems***. Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh and Stanislaw Baranczak., 2006. Crisp, elegant poetry is presented in original Polish alongside its English translation. Clouds, current events, and revolution are just a few of the themes addressed in this marvelous collection of twenty-six thought-provoking poems.

Tinti, Hannah. ***The Good Thief: A Novel***. 2008. Ren, a one-handed orphan in eighteenth-century New England, is released into the custody of a villain who claims to be his father and who wants to train him to be a thief. Ren seems to be a natural at it. Alex Award 2009

Tucker, Todd. ***Over and Under***. 2008. Two fourteen-year-old boys begin summer with high hopes of freedom and adventure. A strike at the major local company, where both of their fathers work, changes those plans and starts them on a tark odyssey of violence, murder, and fear. A coming-of-age story in the tradition of To Kill a Mockingbird. Alex Award 2009

Turgenev, Ivan. ***Fathers and Sons***. First published in Russian in 1862. In this portrayal of conflicts between the older aristocratic generation and the new Russian intelligentsia of the nineteenth-century, a young graduate student returns home accompanied, much to the discomfort of his father and uncle, by a friend who does not acknowledge any authority and who refuses to accept any principle on faith.

Verghese, Abraham. ***Cutting for Stone***. 2009. Twin brothers are born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Ethiopia. Bound by a preternatural connection, but separated by betrayal and political upheaval, they are reunited in New York City when one faces a life-threatening illness.

Williams, Carol Lynch. ***The Chosen One***. 2009. When the Prophet orders thirteen-year-old Kyra to be the seventh wife of her elderly uncle, her family is upset. Kyra knows that running away puts them all at risk.

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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

Wroblewski, David. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle: A Novel.*** 2008. Accompanied by canine companions, the quest of Edgar, a mute boy, takes shape with the return of his uncle and culminates dramatically with the solution of his father's mysterious death. A story of joy and sorrow.

Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief.*** 2006. 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 storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. National Jewish Book Award 2006