



2011 Student Recommendations

The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan

An orphan boy, Will, has been intimidated by the Rangers as well as slightly frightened. The Rangers are agents of the king and are generally feared by the townspeople. Now, Will is about to be apprenticed to one of those very same Rangers. Will soon learns that being a Ranger's apprentice is more than it seems. Rangers are key to the survival of the kingdom, and now the kingdom's survival is at stake. It's up to Will and his mentor, Halt, to preserve the safety of the kingdom from the wrath of enemy forces. Recommended by Wilder Ledes

The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender

"How much more, Laibish? How much more?" I whisper. He puts his arm around me. "We must hold out. We must." This wonderful book, *The Cage*, pulls on my heartstrings. This true story is about a Polish family in the Holocaust whose strength and hope guides them along their treacherous path. At one point in this story, Riva, one of the characters, is going to a labor camp, and she is separated from her two beloved brothers and most of her friends. Many others just give up, but she clings on to the small thread of hope that there is always a tomorrow, and maybe all of the terror and torture will finally end forever. This captivating story portrays the life-lesson that if you speak up, and if you persevere in life, there is always hope. I urge you to read this inspiring book about a tragic time in history that we should never forget. Recommended by Oliver Neubauer

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

Imagine discovering that your mom is the kidnapper behind the mysterious disappearances of children! Lyra Belacqua discovers this on her journey to the North to save the kidnapped children and her imprisoned "uncle." Growing up, Lyra lived in grand, beautiful Jordan College. But when Roger, the kitchen boy and her good friend, gets captured by the "Gobblers", she sets off to the North with a gift from the Master at Jordan College, an alethiometer. He says, "It is the alethiometer, it tells the truth. As for how to read it, you'll have to learn by yourself." In the North she meets Iorek Byrnison, an armored bear and discovers shocking secrets. Recommended by Lucy MacGowan

Cards on the Table by Agatha Christie

Hercule Poirot, the famous Belgian detective with the egg-shaped head who stars in many of Christie's books, meets a rich friend of his who collects all sorts of rarities. The man, Mr. Shaitana, invites him to meet a very different one of his collections, his collection of murderers. "Not the ones who were caught but the first class ones, the ones who got away with it." At the dinner party there are four detectives and four supposed murderers, a doctor, an adventurer, a 60-year-old widow and a young girl. All of them could be murderers. At the end of the night Shaitana is dead. Poirot, of course, must find out who did it. But they all have an alibi. If you want to find out who did it, you will have to read the book. Recommended by Jonathan Briffault

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Have you ever been trapped on a train with a man you are highly suspicious of, and then the next day you wake up, and he is dead? Probably not! But in this story people are trapped on a train with a murderer, not to mention caught in a blizzard. This is what Hercule Poirot, the wily detective, has to endure. This is an exciting mystery in which Poirot has to hunt down a murderer out of all of the passengers. I just love the way it is written, with all of the suspense, and the clues twisted in here and there. It gives you this sudden anxiety which makes it impossible to put this book down. So go ahead and join Poirot on his exciting

adventure trapped on a train for who knows how long, who knows what's coming, and who knows who is, the guilty murderer. Recommended by Ella Papanek

Fallen Angels_by Walter Dean Myers

In this fictional account of the Vietnam War, Richie Perry, a teenager, and his new war mates try to accomplish one goal---getting out alive. This book is about the missions, troubles, obstacles, teamwork, and friendships a soldier in the Vietnam War comes across. After being injured on a hill in the middle of a bloody battle against the Vietcong, and nearly killed in a supposedly empty hut during an attempt to liberate a village, the question is clear: Will Perry and his friends survive? Will Perry be able to go back to home sweet home? Recommended by Luke Kelly

A Whole 'Nother Story by Dr. Cuthbert Soup

In this fascinating book, you will meet an evil monkey, corporate villains who constantly argue about the difference between smooching, smashing, crushing, and crunching, a psychic hairless dog, a sock puppet named Steve, and three "relatively odor-free" children. Imagine if you were always on the run because evil villains are trying to get a hold of the one thing that will let you see your mother alive again. The machine is called the LBR, and it is a time machine. As you can imagine, if you had a time machine, everyone would be trying to get it from you. Obviously you would not want to give it up, so you would have to be on the move. This is what happened to Barton, Saffron, and Crandall. Since they are on the move, they meet a lot of people with interesting stories. I really enjoyed this book because it is very humorous and it has interesting characters. If you liked the [Mysterious Benedict Society](#) or [The Name of This Book Is Secret](#) series, then you are going to like this one because the author is more like a narrator than an author. It is more like he is telling the story to you, rather than writing, because he puts in comments throughout. Recommended by Kira Zelbo

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A strange event happens when sixteen very unlikely people are called to the reading of Sam W. Westing's will. Once the game-loving millionaire decides who will inherit his fortune, great trouble begins in the Westing house. People start setting off bombs and trying to hurt each other. But this won't stop him from playing one last game before the so-called dead Samuel Westing dies. When the winner is finally chosen, the verdict is a very unlikely person. To find out what the background of this mysterious winner is, and what really happened to Samuel Westing; you have to read the book. Recommended by Clementine Lee

One Handed Catch by M.J. Auch

It is the year 1956 in upstate New York. Eleven year old Norman loses his hand in a painful accident. Norman's lifelong dream to become a baseball player is about to fall apart. Kids make fun of him and stare all day, and he can hardly bat with only one hand. Worst of all, his best friend is telling him to give his dream up. Despite the disturbing title, this book is not gruesome. You would think having one hand wouldn't be that bad but it limits you in too many ways; you can't tie your shoe laces, button your shirt, play a two- handed instrument or even swim. Will Norm continue playing ball? Will he keep his best friend? You will have to read ***One Handed Catch*** to find out! Recommended by Ciaran Cotins

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan

What would you do if the Egyptian god of evil, Set, took over your dad's body and was trying to conquer the world. Run? Hide? Or fight! For Carter and Sadie, the heroes of ***The Red Pyramid***, the choice is obvious, fight! This magical fantasy takes place in the present, and the story moves all over the world as Carter and Sadie prepare to fight Set. I chose this book because it is full of action, and it seems like every page has a new problem. I also enjoyed this book because it teaches you a lot of Egyptian mythology. Will Set fall? Will Carter and Sadie live? To figure out who wins the battle between evil itself and mortals you'll have to read the book. Recommended by Ben Chew

Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome

This is a book about kids who sail alone to an island and live there for part of a summer. The book explains their adventure on the island in great detail. It is the first in a series. It takes place in 1929. Recommended by Clay Papanek

The Sister Grimm Series by Michael Buckley

The Sisters Grimm is about two girls who live with their grandmother. Their parents have been kidnapped by a monster. They want to find out who captured their parents, but they have to solve other murders as they go. Recommended by Sofia Suri

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Little Women is about sisters who live with their mother. Their father is away fighting in the Civil War. The family faces money problems, but even though they are poor, they find a way to help people who are poorer than they are. Recommended by Sofia Suri

The Capture by Kathryn Lasky

This book is about owls who live in a very big tree. The main characters are Soren, Gylfie, Twilight and Digger. They are owls who come together to find the legendary tree where all the noblest owls live. They are captured by evil owls who try to brainwash them. Recommended by Tristan Semmelhack

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Anne is a young orphan girl who has moved to many different homes. The Cuthberts want an orphan boy to help on their farm. When Anne shows up they are confused. Didn't they ask for a boy? Does Anne win over their hearts and continue her life at Green Gables, or is she left going from house to house? Recommended by Ever Croffoot-Suede

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Mississippi Beaumont is known as Mibs. When she turns thirteen, she will discover her magical power, her savvy. Recommended by Isabella Leone

Scumble by Ingrid Law

This is the sequel to ***Savvy***. This time, it is about a boy named Ledge. He has learned what his savvy is, but his is to learn how to scumble his savvy. Recommended by Isabella Leone

Poppy by Avi

This book is about a mouse named Poppy. Poppy and some other mice are going to find a new home. Her father warns her that the forest belongs to an owl. Poppy journeys into the forest anyway, where she meets a porcupine named Ereth. Ereth helps Poppy. Recommended by Zara Ding

Fergus Crane by Paul Stewart

This is the story of Fergus, a boy who lives in the city. One day a flying box with wings comes to Fergus's window. The box says, "You are in grave danger!" Fergus doesn't know what this means. Maybe it has something to do with his lost father. Recommended by Joaquin Berdonces-Morrison

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

This is the first book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. It is a very funny story with action and adventure. There is an amazing journey to reclaim Zeus's lightning bolt. Recommended by Darcey Bowling

The Anybodies by N.E. Bode

This quirky and exciting book is about a young girl who realizes she is an Anybody. An Anybody is a person who can transform, hypnotize, and shake objects out of books. ***The Anybodies*** is funny and exhilarating. Recommended by Clara Neubauer

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

This book is about a young boy who is an extremely smart criminal. He discovers an underground world with fairies. This book is a bit scary, very funny, and extremely exciting. Recommended by Clara Neubauer