

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SUMMER READING PROGRAM

### SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 11

**Agee, James.** *A Death in the Family.*

The story of a family for the first few days after the accidental death of the 35-year-old-husband and father. Pulitzer Prize 04/01/58

**Albom, Mitch.** *The 5 People You Meet in Heaven*

From the author of the "New York Times" bestseller "Tuesdays with Morrie" comes a novel that explores the unexpected connections of readers' lives and the idea that heaven is more than a place--it's an answer.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Catalyst.*

Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

**Beamer, Lisa.** *Let's Roll: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage.*

Lisa Beamer was thrust into the national spotlight after her husband, Todd, led a counterattack against terrorists on United Flight 93. Todd's last known words, "Let's roll!" have become a rallying cry for the nation to move ahead in hope. This is the story of her marriage, the events of 9/11, and the aftermath.

**Crutcher, Chris.** *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes.*

The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

**King, Stephen.** *Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon.*

A portable radio helps a girl survive after she is lost in the woods of New England. During her nine-day ordeal, Trisha McFarland fights thirst, wasps, and the terrors of the night, all the while keeping up her spirits by listening to music and baseball games.

**McCullers, Carson.** *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter.*

A deaf mute who has lost his only friend to a hospital for the insane becomes the Recipient of the confidences of several other town residents.

**Patterson, James.** *Pop Goes the Weasel.*

Alex Cross's pursuit of a killer has quickly produced a suspect--a British diplomat named Geoffrey Shaffer. However proving that Shaffer is the murderer is a difficult challenge. The diplomat engages in a brilliant series of surprising countermoves, in court and out, and Cross and his fiance soon become the targets of a deadly cabal of killers.

**Pelzel, David. *A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive.***

This book chronicles the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother: a mother who played tortuous, unpredictable games--games that left him nearly dead. He had to learn how to play his mother's games in order to survive because she no longer considered him a son, but a slave; and no longer a boy, but an "it."

Dave's bed was an old army cot in the basement, and his clothes were torn and raunchy. When his mother allowed him the luxury of food, it was nothing more than spoiled scraps that even the dogs refused to eat. The outside world knew nothing of his living nightmare. He had nothing or no one to turn to, but his dreams kept him alive--dreams of someone taking care of him, loving him and calling him their son.

**Quindlan, Anna. *Object Lessons.***

YA-- This first novel is an insightful family chronicle, an informed commentary on the '60s, and the coming-of-age depiction of a mother and daughter. As 13-year-old Maggie struggles with her identity within the boisterous Scanlan clan, her mother also finds her own place within the patriarchal family that has never accepted her. Both women experience rites of passage during the fateful summer that a housing development is being built behind their home, infringing on their emotional and physical spaces. A fast-paced plot involves small fires set in the development by Maggie's friends and romantic tension between her mother and a man from her past. Readers will appreciate Maggie's dilemmas as she grapples with peer pressure and sexual bewilderment, and as she begins to understand her mother, whose discontent oddly parallels her own. --Jackie Gropman, Richard Byrd Library, Springfield, VA-

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**Winchester, Simon. *The Professor and the Madman.***

A fascinating portrait of Dr. W.C. Minor, an American civil war veteran confined to a British insane asylum, who contributed more than 10,000 definitions during the compilation of the "Oxford English Dictionary"