

# SUMMER READING LIST\*



## Grades 9-12

compiled for the Connecticut Department of Education by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library

### FICTION

#### **Forgotten Fire** by Adam Bagdasarian

The story of how Vahan Kenderian survived the Turkish massacre of the Armenians in 1915.

ALA, IRA

#### **Mississippi Trial, 1955** by Chris Crowe

In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago.

ALA, IRA, NCSS

#### **Torn Thread** by Anne Isaacs

In an attempt to save his daughter's life, Eva's father sends her from Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia where she and her sister survive the war.

ALA, NCSS

#### **Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You** by Hanna Jansen

Jeanne, the only member of her family not murdered in the Rwandan genocide, struggles to start a new life without her family while coping with the violent memories that haunt her.

ALA, NCSS

#### **Reaching Out** by Francisco Jimenez

Leaving his home in a migrant community, Francisco sets off for college, carrying memories of years of poverty and prejudice.

ALA, NCSS

#### **Muchacho** by LouAnne Johnson

Living in a neighborhood of drug dealers and gangs in New Mexico, high school junior Eddie Corazon, a juvenile delinquent-in-training, falls in love with a girl who inspires him to rethink his life and his choices.

ALA, NCSS

#### **Buddha Boy** by Kathe Koja

Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual and artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call Buddha Boy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school.

ALA, NCSS

#### **Sold** by Patricia McCormick

A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India.

ALA, IRA, NCSS

#### **Madapple** by Christina Meldrum

A girl who has been brought up in near isolation is thrown into a twisted web of family secrets and religious fundamentalism when her mother dies and she goes to live with relatives she never knew she had.

ALA, NCSS

#### **Here Lies Arthur** by Philip Reeve

When her village is attacked and burned, Gwyna seeks protection from the bard Myrddin, who uses Gwyna in his plan to transform young Arthur into the heroic King Arthur.

ALA, NCTE

#### **Under the Persimmon Tree** by Suzanne Fisher Staples

During the 2001 Afghan War, the lives of Najmal, a young refugee from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and Nusrat, an American-Muslim teacher who is awaiting her husband's return from Mazar-i-Sharif, intersect at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

ALA, IRA, NCSS

#### **A True and Faithful Narrative** by Katherine Sturtevant

In London in the 1680s, Meg--now sixteen years old--tries to decide whether to marry either of the two men who court her, taking into account both love and her writing ambitions.

ALA, NCTE

#### **The Gospel According to Larry** by Janet Tashjian

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

ALA, NCSS

#### **True Believer** by Virginia Euwer Wolff

Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.

ALA, NCSS

# SUMMER READING LIST

## NONFICTION

### **Photo by Brady** by Jennifer Armstrong

An account of the Civil War using photographs taken under the direction of Mathew B. Brady, a famous New York photographer of the day, and provides information on the life and times of Brady as well as the Civil War.

ALA, IRA

### **Hitler Youth** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.

ALA, NCTE

### **Muckrakers** by Ann Bausum

Contains over fifty archival photographs profiling the men and women who played an instrumental role in exposing the political corruption and corporate greed that existed during the early part of the twentieth century.

ALA, NCTE

### **With Courage and Cloth** by Ann Bausum

Photographs and text cover the history of how women won the right to vote in the U.S.A.

ALA, NCTE, NCSS

### **Invisible Allies** by Jeanette Farrell

Usually, microbes are equated with disease, but in fact most microbes are actually our allies. Learn how the microbes that are everywhere around us help us to survive every day.

ALA, NSTA

### **Bound for the North Star** by Dennis Brindell Fradin

Twelve true accounts of slaves who escaped to freedom from slavery in the American South before the Civil War.

ALA, NCSS

### **Understanding the Holy Land** by Mitch Frank

A series of questions and answers that seeks to explain the origins and conflict behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, failed attempts at peace, and its significance to the rest of the world.

ALA, NCSS

### **An Inconvenient Truth** by Al Gore

Adapted from former Vice President Al Gore's adult documentary and book *An Inconvenient Truth*, this book is a call to action for youth, exposing the reality of global warming.

ALA, NCSS

### **September 11, 2001** by Wilborn, Hampton

Describes the September 11 attacks in the United States and presents several personal stories of tragedy told by New Yorkers who lived through the collapse of the World Trade Center.

ALA, NCSS

### **A History of Basketball for Girls and Women** by Joanne Lannin

Traces the development of women's basketball, from its beginnings at Smith College to today's Women's National Basketball Association.

ALA, NCSS

### **Marching for Freedom** by Elizabeth Partridge

Recounts the three months of protest that took place before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

ALA, IRA

### **Revenge of the Whale** by Nathaniel Philbrick

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged sperm whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. Based on the author's adult book *In the Heart of the Sea*.

ALA, NCSS

## BIOGRAPHY

### **Rachel Carson** by Ellen Levine

Presents the life and accomplishments of the American biologist, whose influential work, "The Silent Spring," about the danger of pesticides had a significant impact on the environmental movement of the 1960s.

ALA, NCSS

### **This Land Was Made for You and Me** by Elizabeth Partridge

A biography of Woody Guthrie, a singer who wrote over 3,000 folk songs and ballads as he traveled around the United States, including *This Land is Your Land* and *So Long It's Been Good to Know Yuh*.

ALA (Outstanding Books for the College Bound), NCSS

### **Bad Boy : A Memoir** by Walter Dean Myers

The author tells the story of growing up in Harlem during the 1940s and 1950s. During a time in which he rejected the values of a loving home and community and got into trouble frequently, his love of reading endured.

ALA, NCTE, NCSS

\*Books listed were selected, between 2001 and 2011, as exemplary books by the American Library Association (ALA) and at least one professional education association. Education associations include: the International Reading Association (IRA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).