

FREE CHOICE BOOKS - RECOMMENDED!

. . . but you may choose a book not on this list

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* - Ishmael Beah**

This is the amazing story of a twelve-year-old boy on the run from a horrible war that killed his family and burned his village. Just one year later, he is wielding a gun as a child soldier in the same war. (Ms. Chapman)

***Across A Hundred Mountains* - Reyna Grande**

A beautiful “border story” centered on a girl and a woman—eleven-year-old Juana, whose very poor family has just lost a baby sister to a flood, and L.A. social worker Andelina, who goes to Mexico hoping to reunite with her parents. The two stories twist and cross in surprising ways. (Ms. Bart-Bell)

***The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* - Maggie O’Farrell**

Iris Lockhart’s great-aunt Esme, whom she never knew existed, is being released after 60 years locked up in a psychiatric ward. Iris takes her aunt in, and learns family secrets that change her life. (Ms. Walker)

***The Road* - Cormac McCarthy**

A father and son walk through a nearly destroyed U.S. (nuclear bombing?) They struggle against starvation, weather, and human predators, while trying to remain human—and find the end of the road. (Ms. Kennedy)

***Changing Planes* - Ursula Le Guin**

Scintillating science fiction stories: What if dreams weren’t yours alone, but were *shared* with your little sister, or with your neighbor? What if summer lasted 18 years? (Mr. Langdon)

***Haroun & the Sea of Stories* - Salman Rushdie**

A Middle-Eastern fantasy about a mesmerizing story-teller who suddenly loses his gift. His son Haroun plunges into the mystery, moving through strange seas inhabited by odd and sometimes very funny creatures, with allegory lurking in the depths. (Mr. Thais)

***The Crying of Lot 49* - Thomas Pynchon**

Has Oedipa uncovered a weird, widespread, darkly shrouded conspiracy? Or is she crazy? The truth? . . . is fragmentary, bizarre, sychedelic! (Mr. Harris)

***Bleak House* - Charles Dickens**

The first page includes “a megalosaurus, forty feet long or so” and a thick, thick fog. (Future Lawyers of America)

***Atonement* - Ian McEwan**

Love, ignorance, passion, twists, regret, manipulation, deceit! (Mr. Harris)

***Breaking Dawn* - Stephanie Meyers** (*out Aug 2*)

Read the last of the Stephanie Meyers series to find out what happens to Edward and Bella’s romance. Does she give up her life to wed Edward? (Ms. Sipos)

***Book of Dead Birds* - Gayle Brandeis**

Only by saving the dying pelicans at Salton Sea can Ava Sing Lo re-connect with her Korean mother. She also reveals her mother’s tragic past and continuing pain, which also infects Ava’s relationships. (Ms. Reichle)

***Water for Elephants* - Sara Gruen**

Action packed from page 1—great characters, dark secrets, lots of fun. (Mrs. Chapman)

***Lost in the City* - Edward P. Jones**

Moving short stories set in Washington D.C.’s African American community. An illiterate kindergarten mom, a girl raising pigeons on the roof, a gospel singer, a store sweeper who winds up the manager, & 10 more. When you finish, you *know* these D.C. streets. (Mr. T)

***Three Cups of Tea* – Greg Mortenson**

Lost after failing to climb the Himalayan peak K2, Mortenson was sheltered and nursed in a remote Pakistani village. He promised to return and build them a school.