Carol Jago's Suggestions for Your Classroom Library

Welcome to my list of suggestions for your classroom library. It is not meant in any way to be a perfect list. Only you know what titles will be most appealing to your students and which books might be problematic in your school community. I have compiled here a list of books that I believe can open up the world to middle and high school readers.

Some of these stories include scenes of violence and/or language that might offend. That said, I have read every one of these books and believe the scenes and language contribute importantly to the authors' intent and message.

Thanks for all you do to bring books into your students' lives. Reading helps us be more fully human.

Abbott, Karen Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy
Ackerman, Diane The Zookeeper's Wife

Adiche, Chimamanda Americanah

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi Half of a Yellow Sun

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi The Thing Around Your Neck

Adiga, Aravind The White Tiger
Agosin, Marjorie I Lived on Butterfly Hill
Ahmad, Jamil The Wandering Falcon
Al Aswary, Alla The Yacoubian Building
Alameddine, Rabih An Unnecessary Woman

Alarcon, Daniel Lost City Radio

Aleichem, Sholem Tevye the Dairyman & Motl the Cantor's Son

Alexander, Elizabeth In the Light of the World

Alexander, Kwame

Alexander, Kwame

Alexander, Michelle

Amis, Martin

The Crossover

The Playbook

The New Jim Crow

Time's Arrow

Anderson, Laurie Halse Chains: Seeds of America trilogy
Anderson, Laurie Halse The Impossible Knife of Memory

Anderson, M.T. Feed

Anderson, M.T. Symphony for the City of the Dead:Dmitry Shotokovich and the Leningrad Symphony

Anderson, M.T. The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation

Aronson, Marc Sugar Changed the World

Aronson, Marc Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners

Atkinson, Kate Life after Life MaddAddam Atwood, Margaret Atwood, Margaret The Blind Assassin Atwood, Margaret The Year of the Flood Ba, Mariama So Long a Letter Forgotten Fire Bagdasarian, Adam Baldwin, James The Fire Next Time Wall and Piece Banksy

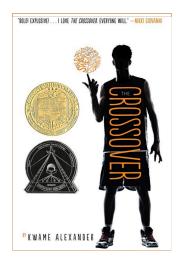
Barakat, Ibtisam Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood

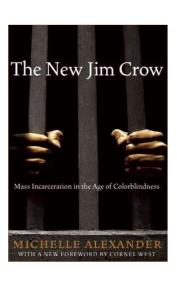
Barbery, Muriel The Elegance of the Hedgehog

Barker, Pat Regeneration

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell Terrible Typhoid Mary:
Bascomb, Neal The Nazi Hunters

Bausum, Ann Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights
Beah, Ishmael A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier





Beatty, Paul The Sellout
Bechdel, Alison Fun Home

Beckert, Sven Empire of Cotton: A Global History

Benioff, David City of Thieves
Berlinski, Mischa Fieldwork

Berry, Wendell What Are People For?

Birkerts, Sven Changing the Subject: Essays on the Mediated Self

Black, Benjamin Christine Falls

Block, Francesca Lia Love in a Time of Global Warming
Blumenthal, Karen Tommy: The Gun that changed America

Boo, Katherine Behind the Beautiful Forevers

Brooks, Geraldine Caleb's Crossing

Brooks, Geraldine March

Brooks, Geraldine People of the Book

Brown, Claude Manchild in the Promised Land

Brown, Don Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans

Brown, Don The Great American Dust Bowl
Butler, Octavia, Damian Duffy, John Jennings Kindred: a graphic novel adaptation

Calvino, Italo

Campbell, Bobbie Jo

Capote, Truman

Card, Orson Scott

Carey, Peter

Carr, Nicholas The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Your Brain

Carter, Bill Boom, Bust, Boom: A story about copper, the metal that runs the world

Castaldo, Nancy Seeds

Castillo, Ana Black Dove: Mama, Mi'jo, and Me

Chesterton, G.K. A Man Called Thursday

Cisneros, Sandra A House of My Own: Stories from My Life

Clements, Marie and Rita Leistner

The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story

Cline, Emma The Girls

Coates, Ta-Nehisi Between the World and Me
Coates, Ta-Nehisi The Beautiful Struggle

Coleman, Gabriella Hackers, Hoaxers, Whistleblowers, Spies

Collins, Suzanne The Hunger Games
Corson, Trevor The Secret Life of Lobsters

Crace, Jim The Pesthouse
Cristof, Agota The Notebook
Crowder, Melanie Audacity

Cruz, Nilo Anna in the Tropics

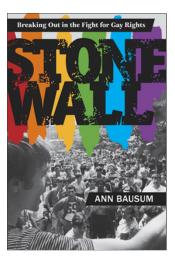
Cullen, Dave Columbine

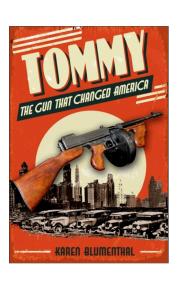
Danticat, Edwidge Brother, I'm Dying
Danticat, Edwidge The Dewbreaker

Daoud, Kamel The Mersault Investigations
Davis, Lydia Can't and Won't: Stories

de Vigan, Delphine No and Me

De Waal, Edmund The Hare with Amber Eyes





DeLillo, Don Zero K
Delilo, Don Falling Man

Desmond, Matthew Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

Dessai, Kirin The Innocence of Loss

Diamond, Jared Collapse

Diamond, Jared Guns, Germs, and Steel
Diaz, Junot This Is How You Lose Her

Díaz, Junot The Brief Wondrous Life of Ocsar Wao

DiCamillo, KateThe Magician's ElephantDidion, JoanThe Year of Magical Thinking

Doctorow, Cory

Doctorow, Cory

Little Brother

Doctorow, E.L.

The March

Doerr, Anthony All the Light We Cannot See

Donoghue, Emily Room

Dunn, Mark Ella Minnow Pea

Dyson, Michael Eric Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America

Dyson, Michael Eric The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America

Egan, Jennifer A Visit from the Goon Squad

Egan, Jennifer The Keep

Egan, Timothy The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl.

Eggers, Dave A Hologram for the King

Eggers, Dave The Circle

Eire, Carlos Waiting for Snow in Havana

Engle, Margarita Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings

Engle, Margarita The Wild Book
Enright, Anne The Green Road
Eraji, Mahbod Rooftops of Iran

Erdrich, Louise LaRose

Erdrich, Louise The Painted Drum
Erdrich, Louise The Round House
Erskine, Kathryn Mockingbird

Faber, Michael The Book of Strange New Things
Federle, Tim The Great American Whatever

Ferrante, Elana My Brilliant Friend
Ferris, Joshua Then We Came to the End

Feynman, Richard Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman

Filkins, Dexter The Forever War

Finkel, David Thank You for Your Service

Finkel, David The Good Soldiers

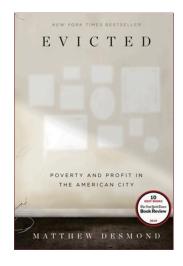
Finnegan, William Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life
Finney, Nikki Head Off and Split: Poems

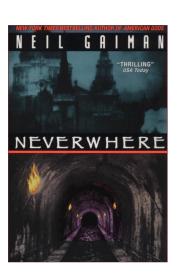
Fleischman, Paul Eyes Wide Open

Florey, Kitty Burns Sister Bernadette's Barking Dog
Fountain, Ben Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk

Frederick, Jim Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death

Gaiman, Neil American Gods
Gaiman, Neil Neverwhere





Gaiman, Neil The Graveyard Book

Gaiman, Neil The Ocean at the End of the Lane

Gaiman, Neil Norse Mythology
Ghosh, Amitav Sea of Poppies
Adam Gidwitz The Inquisitor's Tale

Goodall, Jane Jane Goodall, 50 Years at Gombe

Goodwin, Doris Kearns Team of Rivals
Gordimer, Nadine The Pickup

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein They Say I Say: Moves That Matter in Academic Writing

Grande, Reyna The Distance Between Us
Grandin, Temple Animals in Translation

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist

Greenblatt, Stephen Will in the World
Grossman, David Someone to Run With
Guene, Faiza Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrrow

Haddon, Mark Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time

Hamid, Mohsin Hot to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia
Hamid, Mohsin The Reluctant Fundamentalist

Hari, Daoud *The Translator* Harkaway, Nick *Tigerman*

Hayes, Terrance How to Be Drawn

Hedges, Chris and Joe Sacco Days of Destruction Days of Revolt

Hemon, AleksandarThe Lazarus ProjectHemon, AleksanderThe Book of My LivesHerrera, Juan FelipeLaughing Out Loud, I Fly

Herrera, Juan Felipe Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes

Hersey, John Hiroshima
Hillenbrand, Laura Unbroken
Hohn, Donovan Moby-Duck

Hoose, Phillip The Boys Who Challenged Hitler

Hornby, Nick Juliet, Naked
Hornby, Nick Slam

Hosseini, Khaled A Thousand Splendid Suns
Huxley, Elsbeth The Flame Trees of Thika

Indridason, ArnaldurJar CityIsaacson, WalterSteve JobsIshiguru, KazuoNever Let Me Go

Jackie Kay Why Don't You Stop Talking

Jahren, Hope Lab Girl

Jefferson, MargoNegroland: a memoirJohnson, AdamThe Orphan Master's SonJohnson, AngelaThe First Part Last

Johnson, Steven

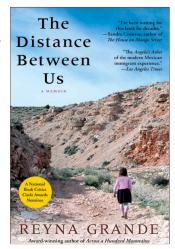
The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic

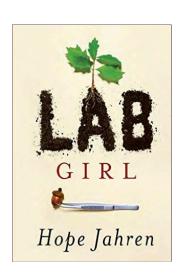
Jones, Lloyd Mister Pip

Joyce, Rachel The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harol Fry

Kalanithi, Paul When Breath Becomes Air
Kamara, Mariatu The Bite of the Mango

Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind





Kang, Han The Vegetarian

Katz, Jon Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho

Kendi, Ibram X. Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America

Keret, Etgar The Bus Driver Who Wanted to be God

Kidder, Tracy Mountains Beyond Mountains: The quest of Dr. Paul Farmer

Kidder, Tracy Strength in What Remains
Kim, Suki Without You, There Is No Us

Kimmerer, Robin Wall Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge

Kincaid, Jamaica A Small Place

Kincaid, Jamaica Autobiography of My Mother

Kincaid, Jamaica See Now Then
Klay, Phil Redeployment
Koch, Herman The Dinner

Kolbert, Elizabeth The Sixth Extinction

Kotlowitz, Alex There Are No Children Here

Krakauer, Jon Missoula: Rape & the Justice System in a College Town

Kristofic, Jim Navajos Wear Nikes
Kuchner, Rachel The Flamethrowers

Kurlansky, Mark Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World

Kushner, RachelTelex from CubaLackhart, E.We Were LiarsLahiri, JhumpaThe Lowland

Lahiri, Jhumpa Unaccustomed Earth
Lai, Thanhha Inside Out and Back Again

Lalami, Laila Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits

Larson, Erik Isaac's Storm

Larson, Erik Devil in the White City
Larson, Erik In the Garden of Beasts

Larson, Erik Lethal Passage: The Story of a Gun
Larsson, Stieg Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

LaValley, Josanne Factory Girl

LeDuff, David Detroit: An American Autopsy

Lee, Chang-rae On Such a Full Sea
LeGuin, Ursula The Left Hand of Darkness

Leovy, Jill Ghettoside
Lerner, Ben 10:04

Lerner, Ben Leaving the Atocha Station

Lessing, DorisThe Fifth ChildLester, JuliusDay of TearsLethem, JonathanChronic City

Letts, Tracy August: Osage County

Lewis, John, Andrew Adin, Nate Powell (illus) March, Books One, Two, & Three

Lewis, Michael The Big Short

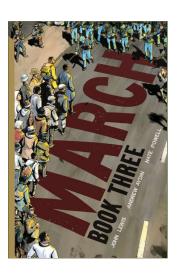
Lewycka, Marina A Short History of Tractors in Ukranian

Li, Yiyun Gold Boy, Emerald Girl

Livaneli, O.Z. Bliss

Locke, Attica Black Water Rising
Lord, Walter A Night to Remember





Lynch, Thomas The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade

Macdonald, Helen H Is for Hawk
MacFarquhar, Larissa Strangers Drowning

Mahjan, Karan The Association of Small Bombs

Malkani, Gautam Londonstani

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia Chronicle of a Death Foretold

Marra, Anthony A Constellation of Vital Phenomena

Marra, Anthony The Tsar of Love and Techno

Marrin, Albert Black Gold: The Story of Oil in Our Lives

Marrin, Albert Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy

Martin, George R.R. Game of Thrones

McBride, James Kill 'em and Leave: Searching for James Brown and the American Soul

McBride, JamesThe Good Lord BirdMcCann, ColumLet the Great World Spin

McCarthy, Cormac The Road McCormick, Patricia Cut

McCormick, Patricia

McCormick, Patricia

Never Fall Down

Purple Heart

McCormick, Patricia Sold

McCormick, Patricia The Plot to Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

McCullough, DavidThe Wright BrothersMcEwan, IanOn Chesil BeachMcGuire, IanThe North Water

Meloy, Ellen The Anthropology of Turquoise

Menedez, AnaLoving CheMengestu, DinawAll Our NamesMengstu, DinawHow to Read the AirMessud, ClaireThe Emperor's Children

Meyers, Walter Dean Riot

Mieville, ChinaThe City the CityMitchell, DavidBlack Swan GreenMitchell, DavidCloud AtlasMitchell, DavidThe Bone Clocks

Mitchell, DavidThe Thousand Autumns of Jacob de ZoetModiano, PatrickSuspended Sentences: Three Novellas

Montero, Mayra

Dancing to Almendra

Moore, Wes

The Other Wes Moore

Morpurgo, Michael

Private Peaceful

Morrison, Toni A Mercy
Morrison, Toni Home

Mosley, Walter The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey

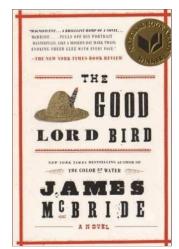
Moss, Miriam Girl on a Plane

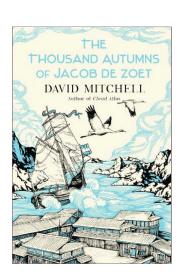
Mueenuddin, Daniyal In Other Rooms, Other Wonders

Mueller, HertaThe Hunger AngelMuller, HertaThe Land of Green Plums

Muller, Herta The Passport
Murakami, Haruki After Dark

Murakami, Haruki Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage





Nazario, Sonia Enrique's Journey

Ndiaye, Marie Ladivine

Ndiaye, Marie Three Strong Women

Nelson, Marilyn

Nelson, Marilyn

My Seneca Village

Nemirovsky, Irene

Ness, Patrick

Nguyen, Viet Thanh

American Ace

My Seneca Village

Suite Francaise

A Monster Calls

The Sympathizer

Noah, Trevor Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood

Nothomb, Amelie The Character of Rain

O'Connor, Flannery Everything That Rises Must Converge

O'Nan, Stewart Last Night at the Lobster

O'Neill, JosephNetherlandObreht, TeaThe Tiger's WifeOeyemi, HelenThe Icarus Girl

Ogawa, Koko The Housekeeper and the Professor

Oliver, Mary

Ondaatje, Michael

Ondaatje, Michael

Oppenheim, Joanne

Otsuka, Julie

Upstream

Divisadero

The Cat's Table

Dear Miss Breed

The buddha in the Attic

Ottaviani, Jim Primates:The Fearless Science of Jane Goodal et al.

Oz, Amos My Michael

Oz, Amos Scenes from Village Life

Ozick, Cynthia Dictation
Ozick, Cynthia The Shawl
Palacio, R. J. Wonder

Pamuk, Orham My Name Is Red

Pamuk, Orhan Snow

Patchett, Ann Truth and Beauty
Patterson, James Maximum Ride

Pawel, Miriam The Crusades of Cesar Chavez: a biography

Pawel, Miriam The Union of Their Dreams
Pessl, Marisha Special Topics in Calamity Physics

Petrushevskaya, Ludmilla The Girl from the Metropol Hote: Growing Up in Communist Russia

Petterson, Per Out Stealing Horses
Phillips, Patrick Blood at the Root

Plain, Nancy This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon

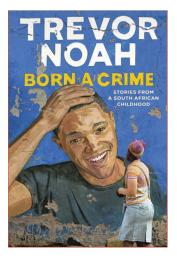
Pollan, Michael The Omnivore's Dilemma

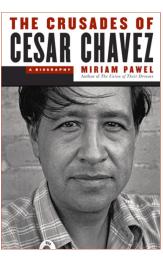
Powers, Kevin The Yellow Birds
Powers, Richard The Echo Maker
Price, Richard Lush Life
Prose, Francine Mister Monkey
Prose, Francine Reading Like a Writer

Rahman, Zia Haider In the Light of What We Know
Rankine, Claudia Citizen: An American Lyric

Rash, Ron Serena

Raven, Curlee Faith Ringgold: A View from the Studio





Reding, Nick Methland
Reza, Yasmina Art

Rivlin, Mark Katrina: After the Flood Roberts, Jason A Sense of the World

Roberts, Jason How a Blind Man Became History's Greatest Traveler

Robinson, Marilynnne Lila
Robinson, Marilynne Home
Rose, Mike Why S

Rose, Mike Why School?
Roth, Veronica Divergent

Rusesabagina, Paul An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography

Rushdie, Salman Luka and the Fire of Life Rushdie, Salman Shalimar the Clown

Saenz, Benjamin Alire Aritotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

Samanci, Ozge Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey

Sandel, Michael Justice

Sanders, George The Tenth of December

Sands, Philippe East West Street: on the Origins of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity

Saramago, Jose Blindness
Saramago, Jose Seeing
Satrapi, Marjane Persepolis 2
Satrapi, Marjane Persepolis

Sattouf, Riad The Arab of the Future: A childhood in the Middle East 1978-84
Sattouf, Riad The Arab of the Future 2: A childhood in the Middle East 1984-1985

Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson Chew on This

Schmitt, Eric-Emmanuell Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran

Schrefer, Eliot *Endangered*Schwartz, Barry *Why We Work*Sebald, W. B. *Austerlitz*

Shabazz, Ilyasah and Kekla Magoon X

Shaffer, Mary Ann and Annie Barrows The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
Shapiro, James 1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare

Sheinkin, Steve Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War
Sheinkin, Steve Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team

Shriver, Lionel We Need to Talk about Kevin
Shteyngart, Gary Little Failure: A Memoir
Shteyngart, Gary Super Sad Love Story
Silvey, Anita Let Your Voice Be Heard

Sinha, Indra Animal's People

Skloot, Rebecca The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Skolnit, Rebecca A paradise Built in Hell

Smith, Patti Just Kids
Smith, Zadie NW
Smith, Zadie On Beauty
Smith, Zadie Swing Time

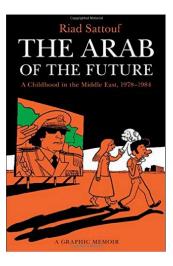
Solnit, Rebecca Hope in the Dark, Untold Histories, Wild possibilities

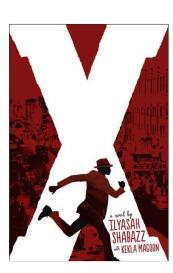
Sotomayor, Sonya

Spufford, Francis

Golden Hill

Standage, Tom A History of the World in 6 Glasses





Stelson, Caren Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story
Stevenson, Bryan Just Mercy: A story of justice and redemption

Stone, Brad The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon

Stork, Francisco X. Marcelo in the Real World

Sweet, Melissa Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White

Szalay, David
All that Man Is
Tan, Shaun
The Arrival
Tartt, Donna
Goldfinch
Terkel, Studs
Division Street
Thomas, Angie
Torres, Justin
We, the Animals

Tovar, Hector Deep Down Dark: 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine

Tremain, Rose The Gustav Sonata

Tretheway, Natasha Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Turkle, Sherry Alone Together

Turkle, Sherry Reclaiming Conversation

Turner, Brian My Life as a Foreign Country: A Memoir

Turner, Pamela, illus Gareth Hinds Samuri Rising

Tyson, Timothy Blood Done Sign My Name

Ursu, Anne The Real Boy
Vance, J.D. Hillbilly Elegy

Vaunda Micheaux Nelson No Crystal Stair: Life of Lewis Michaux, Harlem bookseller

Verghese, Abraham Cutting for Stone
Vizzini, Ned Be More Cool

Ward, Jesmyn (editor) The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race

Welles, Lee Gaia Girls: Enter the Earth
Whitehead, Colson The Underground Railroad

Wideman, John Edgar Writing to Save a Life: The Louis Till File

Wiesner, David and Donna Jo Napoli Fish Girl

Wiggins, Marianne The Shadow Catcher
Wilkerson, Isabel The Warmth of Other Suns

Williams, John Stoner

Williams, Terry Tempest

The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks

Williams, Thomas Chatterton

Losing My Cool: Love, Literature, and a Black Man's Escape from the Crowd

Wilson, E.O. Letters from a Scientist

Wood, Peter H. Near Andersonville, Winslow Homer's Civil War

Woodson, Jacqueline Another Brooklyn

Wroblewski, David The Story of Edgar Sawtelle
Yang, Gene American Born Chinese

Yang, Gene Luen and Thien Pham Level Up

Yehoshua, A. B. A Woman in Jerusalem

Zusak, Markus The Book Thief

Carol Jago has taught English in middle and high schools for 32 years and served as president of the National Council of Teachers of English. You can reach her at cjago@caroljago.com.

Happy reading.



