



Young Marine Reading List



The Young Marine Reading List is separated out by grade level (3rd-12th). Young Marines may read above or below their current grade, but it is recommended to stay within their grade level.

There are lists for Director's Pick, Navajo Code Talkers, Veteran's and Memorial Day, and Pearl Harbor. These highlight the key events our organization focuses on.

Once a Young Marine has finished reading a book, they can write a review, in their own words, that will be featured in the Esprit magazine, so others may read them as a recommendation for the book. The book review should give a brief summary of the book without giving away the ending or any surprises, but it should focus on the leadership and personal development qualities that Young Marines learned while reading. Reviews are submitted to the Education Manager at education@youngmarines.com.

Young Marines will be allowed to recommend their own books. They must be submitted to education@youngmarines.com and include the title, author, summary, leadership traits that correspond with the book, grade level, and why they recommend the book.

Third Grade Books (10)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership Trait(s)	Notes
The Whipping Boy	Sid Fleischman	<p>A young orphan named Jemmy rouses from his sleep. "Ain't I already been whipped twice today? Gaw! What's the prince done now?" It was forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. Jemmy had been plucked from the streets to serve as whipping boy to the arrogant and spiteful Prince Brat.</p> <p>Dreaming of running away, Jemmy finds himself trapped in Prince Brat's own dream at once brash and perilous.</p> <p>In this briskly told tale of high adventure, taut with suspense and rich with colorful characters, the whipping boy and Prince Brat must at last confront each other.</p>	<p>Courage</p> <p>Loyalty</p>	
Speech in Translation	Leslie Holland	<p>MLK was one of the most influential people in the world. His "I have a Dream" speech helped end racism in the United States. This presents Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech and explains its meaning using everyday language. It describes the events that led to the speech and its significance through history</p>	<p>Justice</p> <p>Tact</p>	Historical Events
The Wish Giver: Three Tales of Coven Tree	Bill Brittain	<p>In this account of sinister doings in Coven Tree, Stew Meat [of Devil's Donkey] relates the King Midas luck that came to three young people, each of whom had a wish fulfilled, and each of whom rued that fulfillment. A literary folk story at its best.</p>	<p>Tact</p> <p>Integrity</p> <p>Judgment</p>	
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	<p>Only five lucky children will be allowed inside. The winners are: Augustus Gloop, an enormously fat boy whose hobby is eating; Veruca Salt, a spoiled-rotten brat whose parents are wrapped around her little finger; Violet Beauregarde, a dim-witted gum-chewer with the fastest jaws around; Mike Teavee, a toy pistol-toting gangster-in-training who is obsessed with television; and Charlie Bucket, Our Hero, a boy who is honest and kind, brave and true, and good and ready for the wildest time of his life!</p>	<p>Judgment</p> <p>Decisiveness</p> <p>Bearing</p> <p>Courage</p> <p>Endurance</p>	<p>Sequel: Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator</p>

The BFG	Roald Dahl	<p>Captured by a giant! The BFG is no ordinary bone-crunching giant. He is far too nice and jumbly. It's lucky for Sophie that he is. Had she been carried off in the middle of the night by the Bloodbottler, the Fleshlumpeater, the Bonecruncher, or any of the other giants, rather than the BFG, she would have soon become breakfast.</p> <p>When Sophie hears that they are flush-bunking off in England to swollomp a few nice little chiddlers, she decides she must stop them once and for all. And the BFG is going to help her!</p>	<p>Dependability Tact Courage</p>	
Freckle Juice	Judy Blume	<p>Nicky has freckles: they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. Sitting behind him in class, Andrew once counted eighty-six of them, and that was just a start! If Andrew had freckles like Nicky, his mother would never know if his neck was dirty.</p> <p>One day after school, Andrew works up enough courage to ask Nicky where he got his freckles. When know-it-all Sharon overhears, she offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe for fifty cents. It's a lot of money, but Andrew is desperate. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens...</p>	<p>Judgment Integrity Bearing</p>	
Willow Run	Patricia Reilly Giff	<p>Meggie Dillon's life has been turned upside down by World War II. Meggie's father has announced that they must help the war effort and move to Willow Run, Michigan, where he'll work nights in a factory building important war planes that will help fight the enemy in Europe. Willow Run will be the greatest adventure ever, Meggie thinks. There she meets Patches and Harlan, other kids like her from far-off places whose parents have come here to do their part in the war. There she faces questions about courage, and what it takes to go into battle, like Eddie, and to keep hope alive on the home front.</p>	<p>Dependability Tact Courage Unselfishness</p>	
Charlotte's Web	E. B. White	<p>Some Pig. Humble. Radiant. These are the words in Charlotte's Web, high up in Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur's life when he was born the runt of his litter.</p>	<p>Courage Loyalty Unselfishness</p>	

<p>Because of Winn-Dixie</p>	<p>Kate DiCamillo</p>	<p>The summer Opal and her father, the preacher, move to Naomi, Florida, Opal goes into the Winn-Dixie supermarket--and comes out with a dog. A big, ugly, suffering dog with a sterling sense of humor. A dog she dubs Winn-Dixie. Because of Winn-Dixie, the preacher tells Opal ten things about her absent mother, one for each year Opal has been alive.</p> <p>Winn-Dixie is better at making friends than anyone Opal has ever known, and together they meet the local librarian, Miss Franny Block, who once fought off a bear with a copy of WAR AND PEACE. They meet Gloria Dump, who is nearly blind but sees with her heart, and Otis, an ex-con who sets the animals in his pet shop loose after hours, then lulls them with his guitar.</p> <p>Opal spends all that sweet summer collecting stories about her new friends and thinking about her mother. But because of Winn-Dixie or perhaps because she has grown, Opal learns to let go, just a little, and that friendship—and forgiveness—can sneak up on you like a sudden summer storm.</p>	<p>Dependability Tact Unselfishness Knowledge Loyalty</p>	
<p>Stuart Little</p>	<p>E. B. White</p>	<p>Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure.</p> <p>Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named Margalo, disappears from her nest. Determined to track her down, Stuart ventures away from home for the very first time in his life. He finds adventure aplenty. But will he find his friend?</p>	<p>Courage Judgment Enthusiasm Loyalty</p>	

Fourth Grade Books (8)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership Trait(s)	Notes
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	<p>Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake--and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure.</p> <p>Brian had been distraught over his parents' impending divorce and the secret he carries about his mother, but now he is truly desolate and alone. Exhausted, terrified, and hungry, Brian struggles to find food and make a shelter for himself. He has no special knowledge of the woods, and he must find a new kind of awareness and patience as he meets each day's challenges. Is the water safe to drink? Are the berries he finds poisonous?</p> <p>Slowly, Brian learns to turn adversity to his advantage--an invading porcupine unexpectedly shows him how to make fire, a devastating tornado shows him how to retrieve supplies from the submerged airplane. Most of all, Brian leaves behind the self-pity he has felt about his predicament as he summons the courage to stay alive.</p> <p>A story of survival and of transformation, this riveting book has sparked many a reader's interest in venturing into the wild.</p>	Endurance Decisiveness Bearing Courage	
The Tale of Despereaux	Kate DiCamillo	<p>Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then?</p>	Courage Tact Decisiveness Enthusiasm	

Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell	In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind. — This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. It is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.	Courage Endurance Bearing	
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. WONDER, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.	Loyalty Tact Dependability Decisiveness Unselfishness Bearing	
Hero	Jennifer Li Shotz	<p>Hero, a retired search-and-rescue dog, is not prepared for a stray puppy to come into his life. But when he and twelve-year-old Ben find Scout injured and afraid, the new addition leads them down an unexpected and dangerous path.</p> <p>When Scout goes missing, it's up to Hero to use his search-and-rescue skills to find Scout and bring him home.</p>	Courage Unselfishness Decisiveness Endurance Loyalty	
Wesley Reece: Fourth Grade Hero	Samantha K. Riggi	Wesley Reece is going into fourth grade. He's definitely not a perfect kid. He has gotten into some serious trouble. He has done everything from playing pranks on the teachers to starting food fights at lunch. But if there is one thing that Wesley does not like - it's a bully! When a new student comes to school with her seeing eye dog, Wesley becomes fascinated by her. Luckily for her, Wesley is there when she needs help out of a tricky situation.	Loyalty Tact Dependability Integrity Unselfishness Courage	

Warriors: Into the Wild	Erin Hunter	For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their warrior ancestors. But the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger, and the sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying-- and some deaths are more mysterious than others. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary house cat named Rusty...who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.	Loyalty Courage Knowledge Decisiveness	
Who won the war?	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	<p>Who will win as the curtain closes on the war between the girls and the boys? Summer vacation is almost over and after one year in Buckman it looks like the Malloy girls will be going home to Ohio. The Hatford boys are relieved to finally be rid of Eddie, Beth and Caroline, also known as the Womper, the Weirdo and the Crazy.</p> <p>As the clock ticks away at their final days, Jake and Eddie keep up the competing, tricking and scheming until Eddie puts Jake up to the biggest dare of the year. She wants to prove once and for all that the girls are in charge. Jake can't back away and let the girls declare victory. The wacky war that began the day the girls arrived isn't over yet!</p>	Judgment Loyalty Decisiveness Initiative Tact	

Fifth Grade Books (7)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
Ungifted	Gordon Korman	<p>The word gifted has never been applied to a kid like Donovan Curtis. It's usually more like Don't try this at home. So when the troublemaker pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (ASD), a special program for gifted and talented students.</p> <p>It wasn't exactly what Donovan had intended, but there couldn't be a more perfect hideout for someone like him. That is, if he can manage to fool people whose IQs are above genius level. And that becomes harder and harder as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science (or just about anything). But after an ongoing experiment with a live human (sister), an unforgettably dramatic middle-school dance, and the most astonishing come-from-behind robot victory ever, Donovan shows that his gifts might be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.</p>	Tact Justice Judgment Initiative Unselfishness Bearing	
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson	<p>Jess Aarons' greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in his grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to see his classmates' faces when he beats them all. But on the first day of school, a new girl boldly crosses over to the boys' side and outruns everyone.</p> <p>That's not a very promising beginning for a friendship, but Jess and Leslie Burke become inseparable. Together they create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods where the two of them reign as king and queen, and their imaginations set the only limits.</p>	Loyalty Endurance Courage Tact Enthusiasm Decisiveness	
Old Yeller	Fred Gipson	<p>At first, Travis couldn't stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a cattle drive up to Abilene.</p> <p>Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?</p>	Loyalty Endurance Courage Enthusiasm	

The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Elizabeth George Speare	Orphaned Kit Tyler knows, as she gazes for the first time at the cold, bleak shores of Connecticut Colony, that her new home will never be like the shimmering Caribbean island she left behind. In her relatives' stern Puritan community, she feels like a tropical bird that has flown to the wrong part of the world, a bird that is now caged and lonely. The only place where Kit feels completely free is in the meadows, where she enjoys the company of the old Quaker woman known as the Witch of Blackbird Pond, and on occasion, her young sailor friend Nat. But when Kit's friendship with the "witch" is discovered, Kit is faced with suspicion, fear, and anger. She herself is accused of witchcraft!	Tact Judgment Decisiveness Bearing	
The Sign of the Beaver	Elizabeth George Speare	Twelve-year-old Matt is left on his own in the Maine wilderness while his father leaves to bring the rest of the family to their new settlement. When he befriends Attean, an Indian chief's grandson, he is invited to join the Beaver tribe and move north. Should Matt abandon his hopes of ever seeing his family again and go on to a new life?	Courage Bearing Tact Judgment Loyalty	
The Egypt Game	Zilpha Keatley Snyder	<p>The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they'll have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard behind the A-Z Antiques and Curio Shop, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game.</p> <p>Before long there are six Egyptians instead of two. After school and on weekends they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game, until strange things begin happening to the players. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?</p>	Judgment Tact Courage Knowledge	
The War I Finally Won	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	<p>Ada and her younger brother, Jamie, now have a permanent home with their loving legal guardian, Susan Smith. Although Jamie adapts more easily, Ada still struggles with the aftermath of her old life, and how to fit into her new life.</p> <p>World War II continues and forces the small community to come together and rely on one another. Ada has never been interested in getting to know her friend's family—especially Maggie's mother, the formidable Lady Thorton. However, circumstances bring them in close proximity along with other unexpected characters. Ada comes face to face with another German! This time she isn't sure what she should do.</p>	Courage Knowledge Decisiveness Endurance	

Sixth Grade Books (8)

Title	Author	Summary	Leadership Trait(s)	Notes
The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson	Rick Riordan	Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends—one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena - Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.	Endurance Bearing Tact Judgment Decisiveness Knowledge Loyalty Dependability Enthusiasm	Series
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle	He stole from the rich and gave to the poor, and in so doing became an undying symbol of virtue. But most important, Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men offer young readers more than enough adventure and thrills to keep them turning the pages. Who could resist the arrows flying, danger lurking, and medieval intrigue?	Loyalty Justice Tact Integrity Unselfishness	
The Afterlife	Gary Soto	You'd think a knife in the ribs would be the end of things, but for Chuy, that's when his life at last gets interesting. He finally sees that people love him, faces the consequences of his actions, finds in himself compassion and bravery . . . and even stumbles on what may be true love. A funny, touching, and wholly original story by one of the finest authors writing for young readers today.	Loyalty Tact Courage Enthusiasm	
Sword of the Rightful King	Jane Yolen	The newly crowned King Arthur has yet to win the support of the people. Merlin must do something before the king is betrayed, or murdered, or--worst of all--gets married. So, Merlin creates a trick: a sword magically placed into a slab of rock that only Arthur can withdraw. Then he lets it be known that whosoever removes the blade will rule all of England, and invites any man who would dare, to try to pull out the sword.	Bearing Justice Courage Endurance	

The Grey King	Susan Cooper	<p>With the final battle between the Light and the Dark soon approaching, Will sets out on a quest to call for aid. Hidden within the Welsh hills is a magical harp that he must use to wake the Sleepers - six noble riders who have slept for centuries.</p> <p>But an illness has robbed Will of nearly all his knowledge of the Old Ones, and he is left only with a broken riddle to guide him in his task. As Will travels blindly through the hills, his journey will bring him face-to-face with the most powerful Lord of the Dark - the Grey King. The King holds the harp and Sleepers within his lands, and there has yet to be a force strong enough to tear them from his grasp...</p>	Decisiveness Tact Endurance Courage Bearing	
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn. Little Ann had the brains, and Billy had the will to make them into the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. Where the Red Fern Grows is an exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.	Tact Loyalty Endurance	
Pay it Forward	Catherine Ryan Hyde	<p>Pay It Forward is a wondrous and moving novel about Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy in a small California town who accepts the challenge that his teacher gives his class, a chance to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world for the better -- and to put that plan into action.</p> <p>The idea that Trevor comes up with is so simple and so naïve that when others learn of it they are dismissive. Even Trevor himself begins to doubt when his "pay it forward" plan seems to founder on a combination of bad luck and the worst of human nature.</p>	Courage Loyalty Dependability Enthusiasm Unselfishness Tact Justice Judgement	
Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson	As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.	Loyalty Endurance Courage Decisiveness Justice Dependability Bearing	

Seventh Grade Books (8)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
The Westing Game	Ellen Raskin	A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger - and a possible murderer - to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead... but that won't stop him from playing one last game!	Loyalty Tact Decisiveness Knowledge Judgment Unselfishness	
Rosa Parks: From the Back of the Bus to the Front of the Movement	Camilla Wilson	Most young readers know that Rosa Parks refused to sit at the back of the bus one fateful day in Montgomery, Alabama. Yet the incident that propelled her to the front of the civil rights movement was just one moment in an extraordinary life. This book takes a close look at Parks' early life, and also follows her political career after the bus boycott.	Justice Courage Tact Bearing Judgment	Historical Events
The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkien	In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent.	Courage Endurance Loyalty Dependability Decisiveness Integrity Enthusiasm	
The Looking Glass Wars	Frank Beddor	When Alyss Heart, newly orphaned heir to the Wonderland throne, flees through the Pool of Tears to escape her murderous Aunt Redd, she finds herself lost and alone in Victorian London. Befriended by an aspiring author named Lewis Carrol, Alyss tells the violent, heartbreaking story of her young life. Alyss trusts this author to tell the truth so that someone, somewhere will find her and bring her home. But he gets the story all wrong. He even spells her name incorrectly! Fortunately, Royal Bodyguard Hatter Madigan knows all too well the awful truth of Alyss' story - and he's searching every corner of our world to find the lost princess and return her to Wonderland, to battle Redd for her rightful place as the Queen of Hearts.	Endurance Courage Justice Judgment Dependability Decisiveness Tact Integrity	

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	On the banks of the Mississippi River, Tom Sawyer and his friends seek out adventure at every turn. Then one fateful night in the graveyard they witness a murder. The boys make a blood oath never to reveal the secret, and they run away to be pirates in search of hidden treasure. But when Tom gets trapped in a cave with scary Injun Joe, can he escape unharmed?	This is one of the few books that have all the leadership traits in it.	
Maze Runner	James Dashner	<p>When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.</p> <p>Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.</p> <p>Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.</p>	<p>Endurance Courage Tact Judgment Enthusiasm Loyalty Knowledge</p>	
Holes	Louis Sachar	Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes: five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.	<p>Loyalty Courage Justice Judgment Integrity Endurance</p>	
7 Habits of Highly Effective People (Teen)	Sean Covey	<i>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers</i> speaks directly to teens, using language and real-life scenarios of particular interest to teens. By engaging this audience on their level and without being condescending, Sean Covey addresses the issues that concern young people: relationships, peers, parents, school choices, life choices, and monumental matters about the future — giving them hope, direction and specific skills to craft extraordinary lives.		Life Skills

Eighth Grade Books (11)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
The Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank	Anne Frank's extraordinary diary, written in the Amsterdam attic where she and her family hid from the Nazis for two years, has become a world classic and a timeless testament to the human spirit. Now, in a new edition enriched by many passages originally withheld by her father, we meet an Anne more real, more human, and more vital than ever. Here she is first and foremost a teenage girl—stubbornly honest, touchingly vulnerable, in love with life. She imparts her deeply secret world of soul-searching and hungering for affection, rebellious clashes with her mother, romance and newly discovered sexuality, and wry, candid observations of her companions. Facing hunger, fear of discovery and death, and the petty frustrations of such confined quarters, Anne writes with adult wisdom and views beyond her years. Her story is that of every teenager, lived out in conditions few teenagers have ever known.	Courage Tact Knowledge	Historical Events
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	First published in 1903, The Call of the Wild is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, The Call of the Wild is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.	Loyalty Endurance Unselfishness Courage Justice Decisiveness	
Little Men	Louisa May Alcott	With two sons of her own, and twelve rescued orphan boys filling the informal school at Plumfield, Jo March -- now Jo Bhaer -- couldn't be happier. But despite the warm and affectionate help of the whole March family, boys have a habit of getting into scrapes, and there are plenty of troubles and adventures in store.	Tact Loyalty Decisiveness Justice Dependability	
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, Little Women. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.	Loyalty Enthusiasm Dependability Knowledge	

Day of Tears	Julius Lester	<p>Julius Lester tells the story of several characters including Emma, a slave owned by Pierce Butler and caretaker of his two daughters, and Pierce, a man with a mounting gambling debt and household to protect. Emma wants to teach his daughters-one who opposes slavery and one who supports it-to have kind hearts. Meanwhile, in a desperate bid to survive, Pierce decides to cash in his "assets" and host the largest slave auction in American history. And on that day, the skies open up and weep endlessly on the proceedings below.</p> <p>Using the multiple voices of enslaved Africans and their owners, Julius Lester has taken a little-known, all-true event in American history and transformed it into a heartbreaking and powerfully dramatic epic on slavery, and the struggle to affirm humanity in the midst of it.</p>	<p>Judgment Justice Loyalty Courage Tact</p>	
The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game	Michael Lewis	<p>When we first meet Michael Oher, he is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or how to read or write. He takes up football and school after a rich, white, Evangelical family plucks him from the streets. Then two great forces alter Oher: the family's love and the evolution of professional football itself into a game in which the quarterback must be protected at any cost. Our protagonist becomes the priceless package of size, speed, and agility necessary to guard the quarterback's greatest vulnerability: his blind side.</p>	<p>Courage Dependability Tact Loyalty Unselfishness Enthusiasm Decisiveness Endurance</p>	True Events
Ender's Game	Orson Scott Card	<p>Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly.</p> <p>The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Ender's two older siblings, Peter and Valentine, are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. While Peter was too uncontrollably violent, Valentine very nearly lacks the capability for violence altogether. Neither was found suitable for the military's purpose.</p>	<p>Courage Endurance Justice Initiative Loyalty Decisiveness Tact Bearing Knowledge</p>	

The Giver	Lois Lowry	Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does, he begins to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.	Judgment Tact Integrity Courage Knowledge	
The Outsiders	S.E. Hilton	The Outsiders is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.	Endurance Tact Integrity Courage Loyalty Justice Judgment Decisiveness Bearing	
Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African-American Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space	Margot Lee Shetterly	Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This audiobook brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.	Courage Justice Judgment Tact Enthusiasm Dependability Initiative Decisiveness	True Events

Ninth Grade Books (6)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
Into Thin Air	Jon Krakauer	A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for Into Thin Air, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.	Courage Endurance Bering	
I'll Give You the Sun	Jandy Nelson	At first, Jude and her twin brother Noah, are inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways...but then Jude meets an intriguing irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor. The early years are Noah's to tell; the later years are Jude's. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world. This radiant, award-winning novel from the acclaimed author of The Sky Is Everywhere will leave you breathless and teary and laughing—often all at once.	Loyalty Tact Dependability	
Eat that Frog!	Brian Tracy	The legendary Eat That Frog! (more than 450,000 copies sold and translated into 23 languages) provides the 21 most effective methods for conquering procrastination and accomplishing more. This new edition is revised and updated throughout and includes brand new information on how to keep technology from dominating our time.		Life Skills
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	The compelling story of two outsiders striving to find their place in an unforgiving world. Drifters in search of work, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie have nothing in the world except each other and a dream--a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Eventually they find work on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley, but their hopes are doomed as Lennie, struggling against extreme cruelty, misunderstanding and feelings of jealousy, becomes a victim of his own strength.	Courage Unselfishness Loyalty Tact Enthusiasm Dependability Justice	

The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	<p>The nation of Panem, formed from a post-apocalyptic North America, is a country that consists of a wealthy Capitol region surrounded by 12 poorer districts. Early in its history, a rebellion led by a 13th district against the Capitol resulted in its destruction and the creation of an annual televised event known as the Hunger Games. In punishment, and as a reminder of the power and grace of the Capitol, each district must yield one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 through a lottery system to participate in the games. The 'tributes' are chosen during the annual Reaping and are forced to fight to the death, leaving only one survivor to claim victory.</p> <p>When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as District 12's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart Peeta, are pitted against bigger, stronger representatives, some of whom have trained for this their whole lives, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been near death before. For her, survival is second nature.</p>	Endurance Loyalty Decisiveness Tact Bearing Judgment	Series
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, To Kill A Mockingbird takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.	Courage Integrity Loyalty Justice Tact Unselfishness Endurance	

Tenth Grade Books (10)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
Mornings on Horseback	David McCullough	Mornings on Horseback is about the world of the young Theodore Roosevelt. It is the story of a remarkable little boy, seriously handicapped by recurrent and nearly fatal attacks of asthma, and his struggle to manhood: an amazing metamorphosis seen in the context of the very uncommon household (and rarefied social world) in which he was raised.	Courage Endurance Loyalty Initiative Justice	Historical Events
The Odyssey	Homer, Robert Fagles, and Bernard Knox	If the Iliad is the world's greatest war epic, then the Odyssey is literature's grandest evocation of everyman's journey through life. Odysseus' reliance on his wit and wiliness for survival in his encounters with divine and natural forces, during his ten-year voyage home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, is at once a timeless human story and an individual test of moral endurance.	Endurance Loyalty Tact Bearing Justice	
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.	Tact Loyalty Courage Knowledge	
The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership	John C. Maxwell	What would happen if a top expert with more than thirty years of leadership experience were willing to distill everything he had learned about leadership into a handful of life-changing principles just for you? It would change your life.		Life Skills
Fever 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson	It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate. New customers have overrun her family's coffee shop, and Mattie's concerns of fever are all but overshadowed by dreams of growing her family's small business into a thriving enterprise. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life gives way to the fight to stay alive.	Endurance Loyalty Judgement Courage Bearing Initiative	

The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.	Courage Bearing Unselfishness	
Journey to the Center of the Earth	Jules Verne	The intrepid Professor Liedenbrock embarks upon the strangest expedition of the nineteenth century: a journey down an extinct Icelandic volcano to the Earth's very core. In his quest to penetrate the planet's primordial secrets, the geologist--together with his quaking nephew Axel and their devoted guide, Hans--discovers an astonishing subterranean menagerie of prehistoric proportions. Verne's imaginative tale is at once the ultimate science fiction adventure and a reflection on the perfectibility of human understanding and the psychology of the questor.	Courage Endurance Loyalty Decisiveness Enthusiasm	
Lord of the Rings	J.R.R. Tolkien	<p>In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths, and Sauron, The Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, it remained lost to him. After many ages it fell, by chance, into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.</p> <p>From Sauron's fastness in the Dark Tower of Mordor, his power spread far and wide. Sauron gathered all the Great Rings to him, but always he searched for the One Ring that would complete his dominion.</p> <p>When Bilbo reached his eleventy-first birthday he disappeared, bequeathing to his young cousin Frodo the Ruling Ring and a perilous quest: to journey across Middle-earth, deep into the shadow of the Dark Lord, and destroy the Ring by casting it into the Cracks of Doom.</p>	<p>These books contain all the leadership traits. There are several characters that all have a different trait. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frodo- Courage ● Gandalf- Dependability ● Aragon- Initiative ● Legolas- Justice ● Meriadoc- Enthusiasm ● Rasagast- Tact ● Peregrin- Unselfishnes ● Samwise- Loyalty 	Series

If I Stay	Gayle Forman	<p>Choices. Seventeen-year-old Mia is faced with some tough ones: Stay true to her first love—music—even if it means losing her boyfriend and leaving her family and friends behind?</p> <p>Then one February morning Mia goes for a drive with her family, and in an instant, everything changes. Suddenly, all the choices are gone, except one. And it's the only one that matters.</p> <p>If I Stay is a heartachingly beautiful book about the power of love, the true meaning of family, and the choices we all make.</p>	<p>Courage Loyalty Judgment</p>	
Make Your Bed	Admiral William H. McRaven	<p>Taking inspiration from the university's slogan, "What starts here changes the world," he shared the ten principles he learned during Navy Seal training that helped him overcome challenges not only in his training and long Naval career, but also throughout his life; and he explained how anyone can use these basic lessons to change themselves-and the world-for the better.</p>		

Eleventh Grade Books (5)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
The Help	Kathryn Stockett	<p>Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared, and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.</p> <p>Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.</p> <p>Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own.</p>	Justice Tact Courage Integrity Decisiveness Unselfishness	
The One Minute Sales Person	Spencer Johnson, MD	<p>In this newly released edition of one of his classic books, The One Minute Sales Person, Spencer Johnson, the author of the number one New York Times bestseller Who Moved My Cheese?, shows you how to sell your ideas, products, or services successfully! This is the book that has proved to be a must-have for the millions of people who were looking for the quickest way to improve their selling skills.</p> <p>The One Minute Sales Person is a clear, easy and invaluable guide that works for both you and the people you sell to, for your financial prosperity and personal well-being.</p>	Tact Bearing Enthusiasm Dependability	Life Skills
Their Eyes were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston	<p>Fair and long-legged, independent and articulate, Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person -- no mean feat for a black woman in the '30s. Janie's quest for identity takes her through three marriages and into a journey back to her roots.</p>	Loyalty Decisiveness Tact Knowledge Integrity	

<p>The Pirate Coast: Thomas Jefferson, the First Marines, and the Secret Mission of</p>	<p>Richard Zacks</p>	<p>The true story of the unheralded American who brought the Barbary Pirates to their knees. In an attempt to stop the legendary Barbary Pirates of North Africa from hijacking American ships, William Eaton set out on a secret mission to overthrow the government of Tripoli. The operation was sanctioned by President Thomas Jefferson, who at the last moment grew wary of "intermeddling" in a foreign government and sent Eaton off without proper national support. Short on supplies, given very little money and only a few men, Eaton and his mission seemed doomed from the start. He triumphed against all odds, recruited a band of European mercenaries in Alexandria, and led them on a march across the Libyan Desert. Once in Tripoli, the ragtag army defeated the local troops and successfully captured Derne, laying the groundwork for the demise of the Barbary Pirates.</p>		
<p>Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging</p>	<p>Sebastian Junger</p>	<p>Drawing from history, psychology, and anthropology, bestselling author Sebastian Junger shows us just how at odds the structure of modern society is with our tribal instincts, arguing that the difficulties many veterans face upon returning home from war do not stem entirely from the trauma they've suffered, but also from the individualist societies they must reintegrate into. Well-researched and compellingly written, this timely look at how veterans react to coming home will reconceive our approach to veteran's affairs and help us to repair our current social dynamic</p>		

Twelfth Grade Books (7)

Book	Author	Summary	Leadership trait(s)	Notes
All the Light we Cannot See	Anthony Doerr	<p>Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.</p> <p>In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.</p>	Courage Loyalty Endurance Dependability Decisiveness	
Think Like a Freak	Steven D. Levitt	<p>Now, with Think Like a Freak, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner have written their most revolutionary book yet. With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, they take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally—to think, that is, like a Freak.</p> <p>Levitt and Dubner offer a blueprint for an entirely new way to solve problems, whether your interest lies in minor lifehacks or major global reforms. As always, no topic is off-limits. They range from business to philanthropy to sports to politics, all with the goal of retraining your brain. Along the way, you'll learn the secrets of a Japanese hot-dog-eating champion, the reason an Australian doctor swallowed a batch of dangerous bacteria, and why Nigerian e-mail scammers make a point of saying they're from Nigeria.</p>	Knowledge Decisiveness Endurance Tact	Life Skills

The Now Habit	Neil A. Fiore	Featuring a new introduction and a new section providing strategies to understand and deal with the role technology plays in procrastination today, THE NOW HABIT offers a comprehensive plan to help readers lower their stress and increase their time to enjoy guilt-free play. Dr. Fiore's techniques will help any busy person start tasks sooner and accomplish them more quickly, without the anxiety brought on by the negative habits of procrastination and perfectionism.	Knowledge Bearing Tact Decisiveness	Life Skills
Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	Laura Hillenbrand	<p>On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.</p> <p>The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.</p> <p>Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.</p>	Endurance Courage Bearing Decisiveness Justice	True Events
Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation	Joseph Ellis	<p>Informs our understanding of American politics--then and now--and gives us a new perspective on the unpredictable forces that shape history.</p> <p>An illuminating study of the intertwined lives of the founders of the American republic--John Adams, Aaron Burr, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington.</p>		

The Last Lecture	Randy Pausch	Based on the extraordinary final lecture by Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, given after he discovered he had pancreatic cancer, this moving book goes beyond the now-famous lecture to inspire readers to live each day with purpose and joy. Photos of Randy and his family and friends are included.		
Give and Take: A Revolutionary Path to Success	Adam Grant	<p>For generations, we have focused on the individual drivers of success: passion, hard work, talent, and luck. But today, success is increasingly dependent on how we interact with others. It turns out that at work, most people operate as either takers, matchers, or givers. Whereas takers strive to get as much as possible from others and matchers aim to trade evenly, givers are the rare breed of people who contribute to others without expecting anything in return.</p> <p>Using his own pioneering research as Wharton's youngest tenured professor, Grant shows that these styles have a surprising impact on success.</p>		

Navajo Code Talkers (3)

Book	Author	Description	Recommended Ages
The Unbreakable Code	Sara Hoagland Hunter	This book portrays the quiet pride of a Navajo code talker as he explains to his grandson how the Navajo language, faith and ingenuity helped win World War II.	Grades 3-5
Navajo Code Talkers	Nathan Aaseng	This book describes how the American military in World War II used a group of Navajo Indians to create an indecipherable code based on their native language.	Grades 6-8
Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII	Chester Nez	In this memoir, the eighty-nine-year-old Nez chronicles both his war years and his life growing up on the Checkerboard Area of the Navajo Reservation-the hard life that gave him the strength, both physical and mental, to become a Marine. His story puts a living face on the legendary men who developed what is still the only unbroken code in modern warfare.	Grades 11-12

Veteran's Day & Memorial Day (7)

Book	Author	Description	Recommended Ages
The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and her Tribute to Veterans	Barbara E. Walsh	At the beginning of WWI, Moina Michael was a professor at University of Georgia. Like many other women on the homefront, she contributed to the war effort by knitting, rolling bandages, and collecting items to be sent to troops overseas. But she wanted to do more. So, she left her job and traveled to New York to open a place where soldiers could come for a little rest and relaxation. But that still wasn't enough. Inspired by a poem, Moina Belle Michael began wearing and distributing poppies. It was a simple gesture that grew into a grand movement. Today, the poppy is recognized as the symbol of fallen soldiers, all because one woman refused to let those soldiers be.	Grades 3-5
America's White Table	Margot Theis	Another longstanding tradition, the white table is set to honor the fallen, missing, or captive. In this picture, Katie and her sisters are asked to set the table in honor of their Uncle John. As each piece is added to the table, the girls' mother explains the significance of the item, from the size of the table, to the lemon wedge, to the empty chair. Informative, but highly readable, the text is appropriate for a wide variety of ages.	Grades 3-5

Granddad Bud: A Veteran's Day Story	Sharon Ferry	When a young boy's great-grandfather comes to his school to talk about Veterans Day, the boy is unsure what to expect. Why exactly do we celebrate Veterans Day - and will his classmates be interested in what Granddad Bud has to say?	Grades 3-5
The Wall	Eve Bunting	the story of a little boy and his father. They've come from far away to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy's grandfather. Other visitors pass by, searching for the names of their loved ones. Finally, the father's fingers stop moving along the wall. "Here he is," he says. This restrained yet moving picture book deals with the lasting impact of the Vietnam War.	Grades 3-5
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	Roger Wachtel	In this book readers will learn about the origins of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the sentinels who guard it, and the controversy over the Vietnam War's unknown soldier	Grades 6-8
War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars	Andrew Carroll	Here are letters from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf war, Somalia, and Bosnia—dramatic eyewitness accounts from the front lines, poignant expressions of love for family and country, insightful reflections on the nature of warfare. Amid the voices of common soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors, nurses, journalists, spies, and chaplains are letters by such legendary figures as Gen. William T. Sherman, Clara Barton, Theodore Roosevelt, Ernie Pyle, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Julia Child, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, and Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr. Collected in <i>War Letters</i> , they are an astonishing historical record, a powerful tribute to those who fought, and a celebration of the enduring power of letters.	Grades 11-12
The Greatest Generation	Tom Brokaw	From military heroes to community leaders to ordinary citizens, he profiles men and women who served their country with valor, then came home and transformed it: Senator Daniel Inouye, decorated at the front, fighting prejudice at home; Martha Settle Putney, one of the first black women to serve in the newly formed WACs; Charles Van Gorder, a doctor who set up a MASH-like medical facility in the middle of battle, then opened a small clinic in his hometown; Navy pilot and future president George H. W. Bush, assigned to read the mail of the enlisted men under him, who says that in doing so he “learned about life”; and many other laudable Americans. To this generation that gave so much and asked so little, Brokaw offers eloquent tribute in true stories of everyday heroes in extraordinary times.	Grades 11-12

Pearl Harbor (4)

Book	Author	Description	Recommended Ages
Day of Infamy: Attack on Pearl Harbor (Graphic History)	Steve White	What is a graphic history? It's just history presented in a graphic-novel format. What's a graphic novel? Think comic book. If you know what a comic book looks like, you'll know the format of a graphic novel. But don't think that because it uses this format, it isn't informative. It provides considerable details and helps kids understand the sequence of events and the cause and effect relationships of those events.	Grades 3-5
Pearl Harbor Attack	Edwin P. Hoyt	This well-researched account of the attack on Pearl Harbor was written by Edwin P. Hoyt, who had served in the military during World War II, specifically in the Pacific theater and who later became a war correspondent. In addition to providing details of the attack, the book also provides some in-depth information about those who were involved. Maps, charts, and historical photos are included.	Grades 6-8
At Dawn, We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor	Gordon W. Prange	First published in 1982, two years after its author died, <i>At Dawn We Slept</i> remains arguably the most important book about Pearl Harbor. Prange served in the Navy in Japan and, following the war, stayed in the country as the civilian chief of General Douglas MacArthur's historians until 1951. He spent nearly four decades doing WWII research, which included telling the Japanese side, to show them as humans, not savages. Prange interviewed hundreds of people and his manuscript grew to 12,000 pages. After his death, two students fashioned it into the brilliant definitive account of Pearl Harbor revered today.	Grades 9-12
Pearl Harbor Ghosts	Thurston Clarke	Pearl Harbor is most often viewed through a national lens of military history. What intrigues about Clarke's work is that it looks at the events, and aftermath, of Pearl Harbor from a Hawaiian perspective. Overnight, Honolulu went from a sleepy beach-and-surf town to one with a three-year blackout and curfew. As he says in the book, it was "a city where the most serious civic nuisances were an absence of shade trees along Kalakaua Avenue and bad-mannered children on the trolley buses, and politicians wore white suits and Panama hats..." Clarke paints a large island tapestry with native Hawaiians, military personnel, the Japanese-Americans whose lives would be forever upended, and all the veterans who returned year-after-year to relive the attack.	Grades 9-12

Director's Picks (8)

Book	Author	Description	Recommended Ages
Grit	Angela Duckworth	<p>In this must-read book for anyone striving to succeed, pioneering psychologist Angela Duckworth shows parents, educators, students, and business people both seasoned and new that the secret to outstanding achievement is not talent but a focused persistence called grit.</p> <p>Why do some people succeed and others fail? Sharing new insights from her landmark research on grit, Angela Duckworth explains why talent is hardly a guarantor of success. Rather, other factors can be even more crucial such as identifying our passions and following through on our commitments.</p>	Grades 7+
Go Wild	John Ratey & Richard Manning	<p>In GO WILD, Harvard Medical School Professor John Ratey, MD, and journalist Richard Manning reveal that although civilization has rapidly evolved, our bodies have not kept pace. This mismatch affects every area of our lives, from our general physical health to our emotional wellbeing. Investigating the power of living according to our genes in the areas of diet, exercise, sleep, nature, mindfulness and more, GO WILD examines how tapping into our core DNA combats modern disease and psychological afflictions, from Autism and Depression to Diabetes and Heart Disease. By focusing on the ways of the past, it is possible to secure a healthier and happier future, and GO WILD will show you how.</p>	Grades 9-12
Undaunted Courage	Stephen E. Ambrose	<p>In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson selected his personal secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead a pioneering voyage across the Great Plains and into the Rockies. It was completely uncharted territory; a wild, vast land ruled by the Indians. Charismatic and brave, Lewis was the perfect choice and he experienced the savage North American continent before any other white man. UNDAUNTED COURAGE is the tale of a hero, but it is also a tragedy. Lewis may have received a hero's welcome on his return to Washington in 1806, but his discoveries did not match the president's fantasies of sweeping, fertile plains ripe for the taking. Full of colorful characters - Jefferson, the president obsessed with conquering the west; William Clark, the rugged frontiersman; Sacagawea, the Indian girl who accompanied the expedition; Drouillard, the French-Indian hunter - this is one of the great adventure stories of all time and it shot to the top of the US bestseller charts.</p>	Grades 11-12

<p>Message to Garcia</p> <p>*Recommended by Board of Directors President, Col. Bill Smith USMC (Ret)</p>	<p>Elbert Hubbard</p>	<p>One of the first inspirational essays ever devoted to business culture and the resolution of business-related conflicts, "A Message to Garcia" has been adapted into two films, inspired multiple radio broadcasts and shows, and has been translated into countless languages. Over a century old, "A Message to Garcia" remains tried and true advice on leadership and success, both in matters of business and state.</p>	<p>Grades 9-12</p>
<p>Blink</p>	<p>Malcom Gladwell</p>	<p>Blink is a book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant - in the blink of an eye - that actually aren't as simple as they seem. Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and win, while others end up stumbling into error? How do our brains really work - in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen, and in the bedroom? And why are the best decisions often those that are impossible to explain to others?</p>	<p>Grades 9-12</p>
<p>Who Moved My Cheese? For Kids</p>	<p>Spencer Johnson, MD and Steve Pileggi (Illustrator)</p>	<p>Spencer Johnson's <i>Who Moved My Cheese?</i> is a bestselling book that has helped millions of people around the world adapt and succeed in changing times. Now Dr. Johnson has adapted his story for the picture book audience so that, starting from the earliest age, children can view change as a positive thing that can lead to new opportunity.</p> <p>Young readers will enjoy following the story of the four little characters, Sniff, Scurry, Hem and Haw, who make their way through a maze looking for the "Magical Cheese" that makes them happy. And once they find the Cheese, it seems like it will last forever-until one morning when everything changes. Who moved their Cheese? Will it come back? Or will they have to look for different Cheese, venturing onto strange paths, around corners they've never explored?</p> <p>As children follow these friends through the maze of change, they can try to figure out which character they're most like-or which they most admire-and what their own Magical Cheese might be.</p>	<p>Grades 3-5</p>

Who Moved My Cheese? For Teens	Spencer Johnson, MD	<p>Teenagers' lives are full of change and this simple book will help them cope with the unique problems that face them every day, such as doing well at school, making career decisions, dealing with parents, relationships and dating, feeling good about themselves and being positive about the future.</p> <p>A group of teenagers are worried about changes in their lives. To help them out, Chris tells the story of Who Moved My Cheese. Four characters, Hem, Haw, Sniff and Scurry, search through a maze for cheese, to nourish them and make them happy, but soon the cheese runs out. Sniff and Scurry go off in search for more, but Hem and Haw stay to work out what went wrong and wait for more cheese. Eventually, Haw realizes that no new cheese is coming, so he sets out into the maze and eventually finds new cheese. The group then discusses the story, finding ways to apply it to their own lives.</p> <p>Who Moved My Cheese? for Teens is an essential book for teenagers – an entertaining parable that reveals profound truths and insights that will last a lifetime.</p>	Grades 6-8
Who Moved My Cheese?	Spencer Johnson, MD	<p>Most people are fearful of change because they don't have any control over how or when it happens to them. Since change happens either to the individual or by the individual, Dr. Spencer Johnson uses a deceptively simple story to show that when it comes to living in a rapidly changing world, what matters most is your attitude.</p> <p>Exploring a simple way to take the fear and anxiety out of managing the future, Who Moved My Cheese? can help you discover how to anticipate, acknowledge, and accept change in order to have a positive impact on every aspect of your life.</p>	Grades 9-12