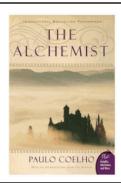
# **Novels Too Good To Miss**

# For other great fiction reads, be sure to check out the T.F. Riggs' Native American Books List.

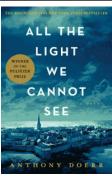
Compiled during Fall 2017 by the T.F. Riggs English Department: Elizabeth J. Vogt, Department Head & 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English; Greg Stluka, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English; Charis Blanchette, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade English; Tiffany Benham, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech and English; Bryan Bonhorst, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech and English; Jenny Hodges, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech and English; Ashley Boone, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English; Sadie Goodman, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English and Pamela Kringel, T.F. Riggs Librarian.



#### **Alchemist**

By Paulo Coelho

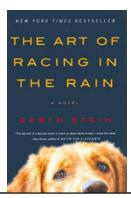
Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, sets out from his home in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of buried treasure, but through his encounters with a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself a king, and an Alchemist, he learns the value of the treasures found within himself.



#### All The Light We Cannot See

By Anthony Doerr

A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.



#### The Art of Racing In The Rain

By Garth Stein

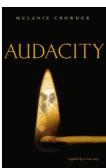
Nearing the end of his life, Enzo, a dog with a philosopher's soul, tries to bring together the family, pulled apart by a three year custody battle between daughter Zoe's maternal grandparents and her father Denny, a race car driver.



#### **Art Forger**

Barbara Shapiro

Boston painter Claire Roth has survived financially by painting reproductions, so when influential gallery owner Aiden Markel arrives with a bizarre proposal--her own show if she will forge a copy of a Degas, one of the pictures stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum--she says yes.



#### **Audacity**

By Melanie Crowder

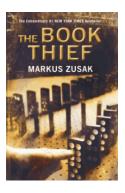
A historical fiction novel in verse detailing the life of Clara Lemlich and her struggle for women's labor rights in the early 20th century in New York



#### **The Bean Trees**

By Barbara Kingsolver

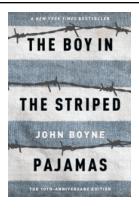
Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.



#### **The Book Thief**

By Markus Zusak

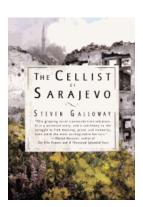
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.



# **The Boy In The Striped Pajamas**

By John Boyle

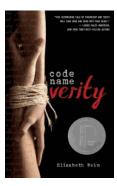
Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.



#### **Cellist Of Sarajevo**

By Steven Galloway

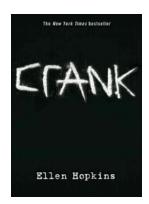
Follows the lives of four people--a baker, a young father, a sniper, and a cellist who commits to playing Albinoni's "Adagio" once a day for twenty-two days in memory of his neighbors who were killed--trying to adjust to their new daily routines in war-torn Sarajevo.



#### **Code Name Verity**

By Elizabeth Wein

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.



# Crank

# By Ellen Hopkins

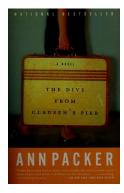
Kristina Georgia Snow is the perfect daughter, gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. But on a trip to visit her absentee father, Kristina disappears and Bree takes her place. Bree is the exact opposite of Kristina. Through a boy, Bree meets the monster: crank. And what begins as a wild ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul -- her life.



# **Curious Incident Of the Dog In The Night-time**

#### By Mark Haddon

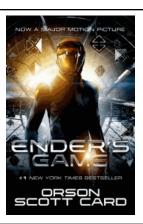
Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.



#### The Dive From Clausen's Pier

#### By Ann Packer

A reckless attempt to impress Carrie, Mike's dive off Clausen's pier rendered him paralyzed. Now Carrie finds herself torn between the loyalty she's expected to feel toward Mike and her need to transform herself. She takes a dive of her own—into adulthood—when she escapes to New York.



# **Ender's Game**

By Orson Scott Card

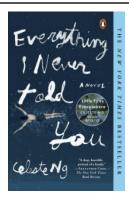
Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.



# **Everything, Everything**

By Nicola Yoon

The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known.



# **Everything I Never Told You**

By Celeste Ng

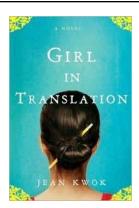
The daughter of a Chinese American family is found dead, turning the family's lives upside down.



#### **First Part Last**

By Angela Johnson

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.



#### **Girl In Translation**

By Jean Kwok

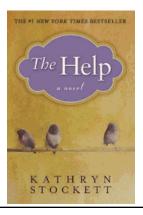
Caught between the pressure to succeed in America, her duty to their family, and her own personal desires, Kimberly Chang, an immigrant girl from Hong Kong, learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles



#### **Girl With The Pearl Earring**

By Tracy Chevalier

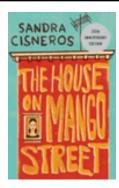
Imagines the young woman in Johannes Vermeer's mysterious painting "The Girl With a Pearl Earring" as a sixteen-year-old Dutch girl named Griet who sparks the interest of the artist when she becomes a maid in his turbulent household.



#### The Help

By Kathryn Stockett

In Jackson, Mississippi, in 1962, there are lines that are not crossed. With the civil rights movement exploding all around them, three women start a movement of their own, forever changing a town and the way women--black and white, mothers and daughters--view one another.



#### **House on Mango Street**

By Sandra Cisneros

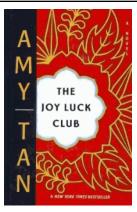
A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.



# **In The Time of the Butterflies**

By Julia Alvarez

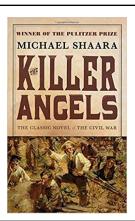
Gives a fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.



# Joy Luck Club

By Amy Tan

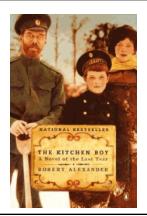
The personal, often painful, histories of four Chinese American women who began meeting in San Francisco in 1949 to play mah jong are revealed as the daughter of one who has died searches for her sisters in China to tell them about the mother they never knew.



# Killer Angels

By Michael Shaara

A fictional account of four days in July, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg discussing tactics, plans and preparations for battle from both the Northern and Southern points of view.



#### **The Kitchen Boy**

By Robert Alexander

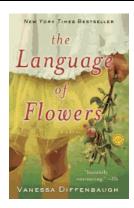
A historical novel in which Leonka, an old man who served as a youth as kitchen boy in the lpatiev House where the tsar and tsarina, Nicholas and Alexandra, were imprisoned, finally reveals what he saw, and what he did on the night the Imperial Family was executed in 1918.



#### The Kite Runner

By Khaled Hosseini

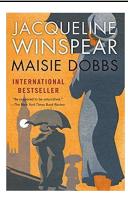
Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official.



#### The Language of Flowers

By Vanessa Diffenbaugh

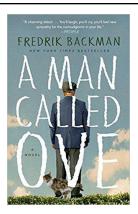
Eighteen-year-old Victoria Jones, having been emancipated from the foster care system and planted a flower garden in the park in which she slept, is hired to work for a local florist, and, after meeting a mysterious vendor at the flower market, she is forced to confront her past and decide what she wants for her future.



#### **Maisie Dobbs**

By Jacqueline Winspear

In post-World War I London, Maisie Dobbs takes her first case as a private investigator and experiences flashbacks to her modest upbringing and doomed wartime romance. This unique historical mystery is the first in a proposed series.

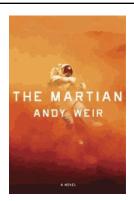


#### **Man Called Ove**

By Fredrik Backman

A curmudgeon hides a terrible personal loss beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with new neighbors, a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

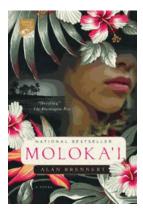
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#### **The Martian**

By Andy Weir

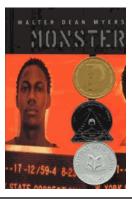
Astronaut Mark Watney, having been stranded on Mars during a dust storm, relies on his ingenuity and engineering skills to stay alive and try to contact NASA.



# Moloka'i

By Alan Brennert

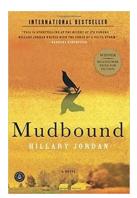
Rachel Kalama, forcibly removed from her idyllic Honolulu home in the 1890s when it is discovered she has leprosy, grows up in the isolated leper colony on the island of Moloka'i where she forms a family of friends, and meets the man who will one day become her husband.



#### **Monster**

By Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.



#### **Mudbound**

By Hillary Jordan

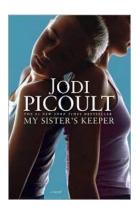
At the close of WW II, two soldiers return to their home in the South to find racial tensions as explosive as the battlefields of Europe. This beautifully written story casts a spell as inescapable as the mud fields of the Mississippi Delta.



#### **The Muralist**

By B. A. Shapiro

When Alizée Benoit, a young American painter working for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), vanishes in New York City in 1940, no one knows what happened to her. Not her Jewish family living in German-occupied France. Not her arts patron and political compatriot, Eleanor Roosevelt.



#### My Sister's Keeper

By Jodi Picoult

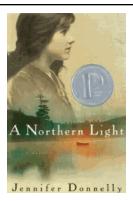
Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.



#### **The Night Circus**

By Erin Morgenstern

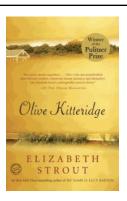
A circus known as Le Cirque des Rêves features two illusionists, Celia and Marco, who are unknowingly competing in a game to which they have been irrevocably bound by their mercurial masters, and as the two fall deeply and passionately in love with each other, their masters intervene with dangerous consequences.



#### **A Northern Light**

By Jennifer Donnelly

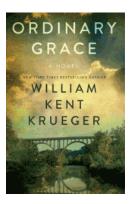
Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.



#### **Olive Kitteridge**

by Elizabeth Strout

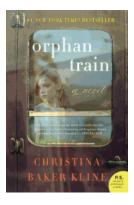
A collection of thirteen linked short stories recounting the experiences of Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher who witnesses the changes in her town and the world at large.



#### **Ordinary Grace**

by William Kent Krueger

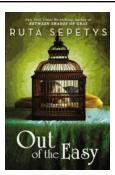
Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his thirteenth year, Frank Drum explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery, and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.



#### **Orphan Train**

by Christina Kline

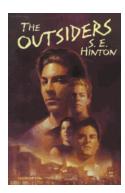
When seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer is sent to perform community service at elderly Vivian Daly's home in order to avoid juvenile hall, she discovers that the two are very much alike, despite the vast age difference.



# Out of the Easy

By Ruta Sepetys

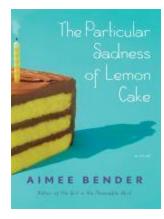
Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950 New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.



#### **Outsiders**

By S.E. Hinton

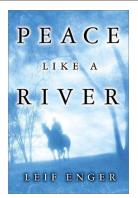
The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.



#### The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake

By Aimee Bender

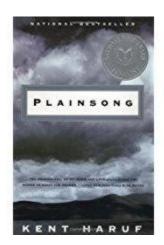
On the eve of her ninth birthday, unassuming Rose Edelstein, a girl at the periphery of schoolyard games and her distracted parents' attentions, bites into her mother's homemade lemon-chocolate cake and discovers she has a gift: she can taste her mother's emotions in the cake. But her gift is no blessing, for her mother her cheerful, good-with-crafts, can-do mother tastes of despair and desperation. Suddenly, and for the rest of her life, food becomes a peril and a threat to Rose.



#### Peace Like A River

By Leif Enger

Set in a quiet 1960s Minnesota community, this magical debut novel centers around 11-year-old asthmatic Reuben Land and his family: his father, his brother, and his precocious younger sister. Life turns upside down when Davy, Reuben's older brother, kills two intruders who plan to harm the family. After Davy breaks out of jail, the Lands leave their home and set out to find him.



#### **Plainsong**

By Kent Haruf

They were always connected, in the way people in small towns are: the elderly McPheron brothers, unschooled but wise in other ways; high school teacher Tom Guthrie and his mischievous sons, Bobby and Ike; and Victoria Roubideaux, 17 and pregnant, with nowhere to go. In this plainspoken yet graceful story that is at once complex and elemental, Haruf deftly brings his characters together, slowly turning them into a family ready to face private fears with a renewed sense of hope, connection, and even joy.



# **Ready Player One**

By Ernest Cline

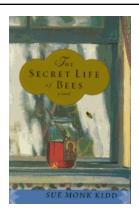
In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others--including those willing to commit murder--in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.



#### Salt To The Sea

By Ruta Sepetys

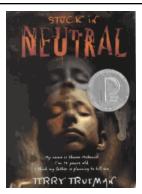
As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull



#### **Secret Life Of Bees**

By Sue Monk Kidd

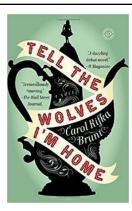
Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared from Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find asafe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina, at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.



#### Stuck In Neutral

By Terry Trueman

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.



#### Tell The Wolves I'm Home

By Carol Rifka Brunt

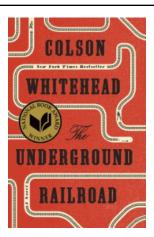
June thought she knew everything about her beloved uncle, Finn. After his death from a mysterious new illness called AIDS, his grieving boyfriend delivers Finn's favorite teapot to June's door, and she realizes nothing is what she thought it was: not her family, not her uncle, not even herself.



#### **The Thirteenth Tale**

By Diane Setterfield

Margaret, a shy, unknown biographer, has to sift truth from fiction as she becomes the first person to hear the secrets of a reclusive best-selling author's mysterious past.



#### **The Underground Railroad**

By Colson Whitehead

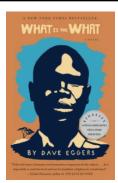
Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted.



# **Watch That Ends The Night**

By Allan Wolf

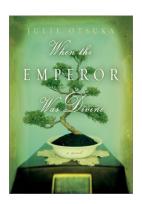
Recreates the 1912 sinking of the Titanic as observed by millionaire John Jacob Astor, a beautiful young Lebanese refugee finding first love, "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, Captain Smith, and others including the iceberg itself.



#### What Is The What?

By Dave Eggers

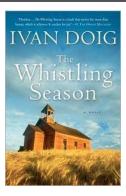
A fictionalized memoir of Valentino Achak Deng, a Sudanese refugee who was forced from his home by the Second Sudanese Civil War and faced many difficulties before coming to the United States.



#### When The Emperor Was Divine

By Julie Otsuka

A short and understated, but also powerful novel in which members of a Japanese-American family, forced to move from a happy California home to cramped, humiliating detention camps set up by the American government, return home after World War II to find suspicious neighbors, a vandalized house, and a broken family.



#### **The Whistling Season**

By Ivan Doig

Rose, who can't cook but doesn't bite arrives in Montana, bringing joy and order to three motherless boys and their father.



#### Wide Sargasso Sea

By Jean Rhys

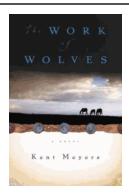
Written as a prequel to Jane Eyre, Wide Sargasso Sea gives us the story of the mad woman in the attic.



#### **Wonder**

By R.J. Palacio

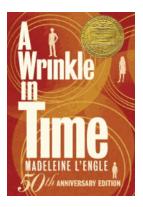
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.



#### **Work of Wolves**

By Kent Myers

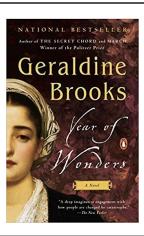
Carson Fielding, a loner known for his horse-training skills reluctantly agrees to work for Magnus Yarborough, a greedy landowner who suspects Carson of having an affair with his wife and plots to take revenge on the young man.



#### **Wrinkle In Time**

By Madeleine L'Engle

Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel. Includes an afterword from the author's granddaughter with photographs, the author's Newberry Medal acceptance speech, and more.



#### **Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague**

By Geraldine Brooks

A year after the plague strikes her village, Anna reflects on how the townsfolk handled their minister's request to remain in town to prevent the illness from spreading. Faith, then healing herbs and potions keep everyone going--until doubt creeps in, and witch-hunting, greed, and madness take over the villagers' lives.