

8th Grade US History Enrichment Reading List

NOTE TO READERS: Before selecting any of these books for additional reading, please review them with your parents. Different families have different levels of comfort with fictional works, since they can include adult language, violence, and sexual situations. Nonfiction is based in fact, but it can be biased, gory, intense, and/or uncomfortable. These books are well-regarded, but they are not necessarily appropriate for every student and may not meet every family's standard as to what their children should read.

Auth.	Title	F/N	Description
The Gilded Age			
Abernathy, Alta	<i>Bud & Me: The True Adventures of the Abernathy Boys</i>	NON	<p><i>Bud & Me</i> is one of the 20th Century's most exciting true stories of courage and adventure. The year is 1905. The new century is still in its infancy. Automobiles are little more than rich men's toys and many short-sighted people feel that everything that can be invented has been invented! In the early 1900's there are only 150 miles of paved road in the entire country. Fifty percent of Americans live and work on farms. Radios and refrigerators are still years away. Women are not allowed to vote yet and Teddy Roosevelt is in office. Against this background come two adventuresome boys, Temple and Bud Abernathy. Raised by their widowed father, "Catch-'em-Alive" Jack Abernathy, known as the man from Oklahoma who catches wolves with his hands . . . the boys, ages 5 and 9, set out on a series of daring rides across America. First, alone on horseback from Frederick, Oklahoma to Sante Fe, New Mexico and back. Then to New York City, alone on horseback to meet their friend "Teddy" and back to Oklahoma driving their own "Brush" automobile. Their longest ride and again alone and on horseback, takes place in 1911, when two New York promoters challenge the boys to ride from Coney Island to San Francisco in 60 days time. The boys are allowed only one change of horses and they cannot sleep or eat under roof during the entire trip or they forfeit the \$10,000 prize money! It is hard to comprehend how different the country is today from just 90 years ago! The story is captivating and an important piece of Americana and rare that it can be shared by an entire family!</p>
Adler, Susan	<i>Meet Samantha: An American Girl</i>	FIC	<p>Samantha Parkington is a bright Victorian beauty being raised by her wealthy grandmother in 1904. Samantha's stories describe her life during this important period of change. Her own world is filled with frills and finery, parties and play. But Samantha sees that times are not good for everybody. That's why she tries to make a difference in the life of her friend Nellie, a servant girl whose world is nothing like Samantha's. Samantha befriends a servant girl named Nellie who moves in next door. The girls become fast friends, though their lives are different.</p>

Auch, Mary Jane	<i>Ashes of Roses</i>	FIC	<p>Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died.</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan and her family are grateful to have finally reached America, the great land of opportunity. Their happiness is shattered when part of their family is forced to return to Ireland. Rose wants to succeed and stays in New York with her younger sister Maureen. The sisters struggle to survive and barely do so by working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Then, just as Rose is forming friendships and settling in, a devastating fire forces her, Maureen, and their friends to fight for their lives. Surrounded by pain, tragedy, and ashes, Rose wonders if there's anything left for her in this great land of America.</p>
Grant, George	<i>Carry a Big Stick: The Uncommon Heroism of Theodore Roosevelt</i>	NON	<p>Theodore Roosevelt stands out as one of the most exceptional leaders in American history. He was a devoted husband and father, a politician, a soldier, a war journalist, an editor, a cattle rancher, a scientist, a writer, an athlete, a hunter, and a diplomat.</p> <p>While the list of his exploits seems imposing, it was his passionate commitment to what he believed was right and good and true that was dynamically compelling—even to those who opposed him.</p> <p>Theodore Roosevelt was a hero.</p> <p>In this thought-provoking look at his leadership in action, we see why he not only earned the respect and admiration of his contemporaries, but why, even today, he continues to capture our imagination.</p>
Hopkinson, Deborah	<i>Hear My Sorrow: The Diary of Angela Denoto, a Shirtwaist Worker, New York City 1909</i>	FIC	<p>Angela and her family have arrived in New York City from their village in Italy to find themselves settled in a small tenement apartment on the Lower East Side. When her father is no longer able to work, Angela must leave school and work in a shirtwaist factory. Against the backdrop of the birth of the labor union movement in the early 1900s, Angela plays a part in the drama and turmoil that erupt as the workers begin to strike, protesting the terrible conditions in the sweatshops. And she records the horrors of the Triangle Factory fire and the triumphs and sorrows of the labor movement.</p>
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>Captains Courageous</i>	FIC	<p>First published in 1897, <i>Captain Courageous</i> tells of the high-seas adventures of Harvey Cheyne, the son of an American millionaire, who, after falling from a luxury ocean liner, is rescued by the raucous crew of the fishing ship <i>We're Here</i>. Obstinate and spoiled at</p>

			<p>first, Harvey in due course learns diligence and responsibility and earns the camaraderie of the seamen, who treat him as one of their own. A true test of character, Harvey's months aboard the We're Here provide a delightful glimpse of life at sea and well-told morals of discipline, empathy, and self-reliance.</p>
Koreto, R.J.	<i>The Body in the Ballroom: An Alice Roosevelt Mystery</i>	FIC	<p>President Teddy Roosevelt's daring daughter, Alice, leaps into action to exonerate a friend accused of poisoning a man just about everyone hated. Alice Roosevelt, the brilliant, danger-loving daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, has already risked an assassin's bullet to solve one murder. She never expected to have to sleuth another, but she'd never pass up the opportunity, either. Anything to stave off boredom.</p> <p>And such an opportunity presents itself when Alice is invited to a lavish ball. The high-society guests are in high spirits as they imbibe the finest wines. But one man, detested by nearly all the partygoers, quaffs a decidedly deadlier cocktail. An African-American mechanic, who also happens to be a good friend of former Rough Rider-turned-Secret Service Agent Joseph St. Clair, is suspected of the murder-by-poison, but Alice is sure he's innocent and is back on the scene to clear his name.</p> <p>From downtown betting parlors to uptown mansions, Alice and Agent St. Clair uncover forbidden romances and a financial deal that just might change the world. But neither Alice nor her would-be protector may survive the case at hand in <i>The Body in the Ballroom</i>, R. J. Koreto's gripping second Alice Roosevelt mystery.</p>
L'Amour, Louis	<i>The Lonesome Gods</i>	FIC	<p>"I am Johannes Verne, and I am not afraid."</p> <p>This was the boy's mantra as he plodded through the desert alone, left to die by his vengeful grandfather. Johannes Verne was soon to be rescued by outlaws, but no one could save him from the lasting memory of his grandfather's eyes, full of impenetrable hatred. Raised in part by Indians, then befriended by a mysterious woman, Johannes grew up to become a rugged adventurer and an educated man. But even now, strengthened by the love of a golden-haired girl and well on his way to making a fortune in bustling early-day Los Angeles, the past may rise up to threaten his future once more. And this time only the ancient gods of the desert can save him.</p>

Martinelli, Candida	<i>Violet's Problem</i>	FIC	The Violet Strange Mysteries are nine detective stories for young adults, each story a major case for Violet Strange, a debutante and secret high-society detective, living and working in New York City in 1899, <i>The Gilded-Age</i> .
Moody, Ralph	<i>Little Britches</i>	FIC	Ralph Moody was eight years old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Through his eyes we experience the pleasures and perils of ranching there early in the twentieth century. Auctions and roundups, family picnics, irrigation wars, tornadoes and wind storms give authentic color to <i>Little Britches</i> . So do adventures, wonderfully told, that equip Ralph to take his father's place when it becomes necessary. <i>Little Britches</i> was the literary debut of Ralph Moody, who wrote about the adventures of his family in eight glorious books, all available as <i>Bison Books</i> .
Moore, Graham	<i>The Last Days of Night</i>	FIC	<p>New York, 1888. Gas lamps still flicker in the city streets, but the miracle of electric light is in its infancy. The person who controls the means to turn night into day will make history--and a vast fortune. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right to power the country?</p> <p>The case affords Paul entry to the heady world of high society--the glittering parties in Gramercy Park mansions, and the more insidious dealings done behind closed doors. The task facing him is beyond daunting. Edison is a wily, dangerous opponent with vast resources at his disposal--private spies, newspapers in his pocket, and the backing of J. P. Morgan himself. Yet this unknown lawyer shares with his famous adversary a compulsion to win at all costs. How will he do it?</p> <p>In obsessive pursuit of victory, Paul crosses paths with Nikola Tesla, an eccentric, brilliant inventor who may hold the key to defeating Edison, and with Agnes Huntington, a beautiful opera singer who proves to be a flawless performer on stage and off. As Paul takes greater and greater risks, he'll find that everyone in his path is playing their own game, and no one is quite who they seem.</p>
Nixon, Jean Lowery	<i>Land of Promise</i>	FIC	Being an immigrant teenager in a strange land is not easy, as 15-year-Rose Carney discovers. She would like to bring the rest of her family over from Ireland, but first she must deal with her father's drinking problem.

Polikoff, Barbara Garland	<i>Her Mother's Secret</i>	FIC	Fifteen-year-old Sarah, the daughter of Jewish immigrants, wants nothing more than to become an artist. But as she spreads her wings she must come to terms with the secrets that her family is only beginning to share with her. Replete with historical details that vividly evoke the Chicago of the 1890s, this moving coming-of-age story is set against the backdrop of a vibrant, turbulent city. Sarah moves between two very different worlds-the colorful immigrant neighborhood surrounding Hull House and the sophisticated, elegant World's Columbian Exposition. This novel eloquently captures the struggles of a young girl as she experiences the timeless emotions of friendship, family turmoil, loss...and first love.
Portis, Charles	<i>True Grit</i>	FIC	<i>True Grit</i> tells the story of Mattie Ross, who is just fourteen years of age when a coward going by the name of Tom Chaney shoots her father down in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150 in cash money. Mattie leaves home to avenge her father's blood. With the one-eyed Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available U.S. Marshal, by her side, Mattie pursues the homicide into Indian Territory.
Reynolds, Quentin	<i>The Wright Brothers: Pioneers of American Aviation</i>	NON	<i>Young Orville and Wilbur Wright loved building things. From the fastest sled in town to the highest-flying kite, the Wright brothers' creations were always a step ahead of everyone else's. They grew up learning all about mechanics from fixing bicycles and studied math and physics. On December 17, 1903, Orville took off in the world's first flying machine!</i>
Wister, Owen	<i>The Virginian</i>	FIC	<i>The Virginian</i> is Owen Wister's classic novel of the Wild West. A highly fictionalized account of the Johnson County War, a dispute in 1890's Wyoming between large cattle ranchers and smaller operators over land use. Rich with detail of the old Wild West frontier days, "The Virginian" is at its core a study of the inherent nature of man drawn out by the savagery of the wilderness.
World War I			
Dowswell, Paul	<i>True Stories of the First World War</i>	NON	Collects stories of events during the First World War, offering background information on the conflict and covering land battles, the naval Battle of Jutland, the zeppelin campaign of the air war, and nursing.
Marrin, Albert	<i>The Yanks Are Coming: The United States in the First World War</i>	NON	Marrin relates the gripping story of how the Yanks "came over" to aid the European Allies and turn the tide in the first Great War. How the United States mobilized industry, trained doughboy soldiers, and promoted the war at home makes for fascinating reading in one of the few books on this topic for young adults.

			The human cost of the war is poignantly related in tales of the action at Chateau Thierry and Belleau Woods, in the air with the daring men of the Army Air Corps, and with the Lost Battalion at the Battle of Meuse-Argonne. From the sinking of the Lusitania to Armistice Day, Marrin tells the heartrending and inspiring story of the "war to end all wars." Illustrated with maps and photographs.
Perry, Anne	<i>Shoulder the Sky</i>	FIC	In the trenches of Flanders, the Reverend Joseph Reavley goes about the task of trying to keep up the morale of the British soldiers, extending his duties to assisting in bringing men back from the barbed-wired and mud-mired "no man's land." When he retrieves the body of an egotistical correspondent, Eldon Prentice, every person who knew him confesses to being glad he was killed. However, it wasn't the Germans who murdered him, but one of their own, and Reavley decides to investigate. Perry's eye for historical detail masterfully places the main characters in settings exactly correct for the era, whether London, the trenches, or the English countryside. The characters' emotions and thoughts capture the confusion, frustration, and determination of those fighting the war. Without describing too graphically the horrors of the front, the author presents memorable tableaux of a soldier, an ambulance driver, a doctor, a field nurse, and those in positions of leadership and trust. The murder investigation and espionage greatly enhance the action and interest in the complex plot.
Shaara, Jeff	<i>To the Last Man</i>	FIC	Viewed from a distance, the campaigns on the Western Front from 1914-18 appear as a pitiless, mechanistic meat grinder, chewing up thousands of lives on a daily basis in a futile conflict without moral justification. So it is important to be reminded that the officers who launched these campaigns and the ordinary soldiers who fought in them were not mere automatons. Shaara, who has previously written celebrated historical novels about the Civil War and the Revolutionary War, again displays his gift for portraying the intensely human side of warriors. He focuses on the experiences of four historical figures, including the American General John "Black Jack" Pershing and the German air ace von Richtofen (the famed Red Baron). Although told primarily from an American perspective, the narrative gives appropriate attention to the attitudes and aspirations of both ordinary and prominent German military figures. When Shaara's characters are away from the front or not directly engaged in action, they indulge in soldier chatter, and the plot tends to drag. But Shaara is at his best in describing scenes of battle. He presents the horror of trench warfare in gory but necessary detail. When the action moves to aerial combat, Shaara offers images of strangely antiseptic beauty, as if airmen are somehow removed from the squalor beneath. This is first-rate storytelling that aptly describes aspects of a conflict that continues to shape our world today.

Skeyhill, Tom	<i>Sergeant York and the Great War</i>	NON	This classic reprint of Corporal Alvin York's journal reveals him as a humble Christian who risked his life in the First World War and was later awarded the congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery.
Tuchman, Barbara	<i>The Guns of August</i>	NON	Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Barbara Tuchman has brought to life again the people and events that led up to World War I. With attention to fascinating detail, and an intense knowledge of her subject and its characters, Ms. Tuchman reveals, for the first time, just how the war started, why, and why it could have been stopped but wasn't. A classic historical survey of a time and a people we all need to know more about, THE GUNS OF AUGUST will not be forgotten.
The Twenties			
Allen, Frederick Lewis	<i>Only Yesterday</i>	NON	Prohibition. Al Capone. The President Harding scandals. The revolution of manners and morals. Black Tuesday. These are only an inkling of the events and figures characterizing the wild, tumultuous era that was the Roaring Twenties. Originally published in 1931, <i>Only Yesterday</i> traces the rise of post-World War I prosperity up to the Wall Street crash of 1929 against the colorful backdrop of flappers, speakeasies, the first radio, and the scandalous rise of skirt hemlines. Hailed as an instant classic, this is Frederick Lewis Allen's vivid and definitive account of one of the twentieth century's most fascinating decades, chronicling a time of both joy and terror--when dizzying highs were quickly succeeded by heartbreaking lows.
Bierman, Carol	<i>Journey to Ellis Island: How My Father Came to America</i>	NON	After trekking across Europe and making it to Ellis Island on the Rotterdam in 1922, young Yehuda Weinstein, his mother, and his younger sister are almost turned away by immigration because he is wearing a sling, when fate intervenes.
Choldenko, Gennifer	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>	FIC	Today I moved to Alcatraz, a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There are twenty-three other kids who live on the island because their dads work as guards or cooks or doctors or electricians for the prison, like my dad does. And then there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we have are the kind other prisons don't want. I never knew prisons could be picky, but I guess they can. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to.

Freedman, Russell	<i>Immigrant Kids</i>	NON	America meant "freedom" to the immigrants of the early 1900s—but a freedom very different from what they expected. Cities were crowded and jobs were scarce. Children had to work selling newspapers, delivering goods, and laboring sweatshops. In this touching book, Newberry Medalist Russell Freedman offers a rare glimpse of what it meant to be a young newcomer to America.
Kahn, Roger	<i>A Flame of Pure Fire: Jack Dempsey and the Roaring Twenties</i>	NON	"He was the wild and raucous champion of the wild and raucous 1920s," writes Kahn (<i>The Boys of Summer</i> , etc.) of the legendary heavyweight William Harrison "Jack" Dempsey. This "hobo, roughneck, brawler, fighter, slacker, lover, millionaire, gentleman" provides Kahn a vehicle for chronicling the jazz age itself. Dempsey emerged out of the still-wild West, having fought in mining towns throughout Utah and Colorado, lean and hungry for success as his country stood on the precipice of unprecedented wealth and power. His transformation from rural tough, the "Manassa Mauler," into the preeminent athlete in the world marked the arrival of sport as big business in a prosperous new America. When he won the heavyweight championship in 1919, Dempsey did it in front of 20,000 people. Less than eight years later, he drew a crowd of 120,000 for his first bout with Gene Tunney (which he lost), still the largest ever in boxing, and made a fortune. In graceful and fluid prose, Kahn presents the con men, gangsters, prostitutes and starlets who inhabited the turbulent, Prohibition-era story of Jack Dempsey. The larger-than-life storytellers of the age, legendary sports writers like Grantland Rice, Ring Lardner and Damon Runyon, feature prominently. Kahn delivers a performance of which any of those whiskey-swilling, rakish scribes would have been proud.
Lesy, Michael	<i>Murder City: The Bloody History of Chicago in the Twenties</i>	NON	Michael Lesy's disturbingly satisfying account of Chicago in the 1920s—the epicenter of murder in America—could be fiction, but it's not. "Things began as they usually did: Someone shot someone else." So begins a chapter of this sharp, fearless collection from a master storyteller. Revisiting seventeen Chicago murder cases—including that of Belva and Beulah, two murderesses whose trials inspired the musical <i>Chicago</i> —Michael Lesy captures an extraordinary moment in American history, bringing to life a city where newspapers scrambled to cover the latest mayhem. Just as Lesy's book <i>Wisconsin Death Trip</i> subverted the accepted notion of the Gay Nineties, so <i>Murder City</i> exposes the tragedy of the Jazz Age and the tortured individuals who may be the progenitors of our modern age.
Wallace, Joseph	<i>Diamond Ruby: A Novel</i>	FIC	Based on the true story of a lady pitcher who struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in exhibition play, this debut novel from nonfiction author Wallace (<i>Grand Old Game</i>) is a diverting sports tale. In 1923, 18-year-old New Yorker Ruby Lee Thomas is forced to raise

			her two small nieces, Amanda and Allie, after the 1918 Spanish influenza devastates her family. Blessed (or cursed) with elongated arms that make for blazing fastballs, the southpaw is hired by the Fantasyland Circus Sideshow as Diamond Ruby. The Jewish pitcher draws the violent attention of the Klan, but also the admiration of Babe Ruth (a pitcher early in his career), who teaches her a few new throws, and boxing champion Jack Dempsey. The Brooklyn Typhoons eventually sign Ruby to pitch, where her amazing feats stir trouble with a charismatic gangster angling to fix her games; subsequent clashes and close calls with Prohibition-era hoodlums generate as much drama as her distinctive baseball prowess. Sharply sketched, convincing historical characters like Ruth and Dempsey add to the considerable appeal of Wallace's gritty but fun period baseball tale.
The Great Depression			
Hastings, Robert J.	<i>A Nickel's Worth of Skim Milk: A Boy's View of the Great Depression</i>	NON	The author was a young boy in Southern Illinois during the Depression and this is a chronicle of those years. It is not a tale of sadness, but of community and extreme frugality. At that time, the spending of each nickel was an event to be pondered deeply, so much of the text deals with "small" purchases. The title is derived from when it was possible to take a bucket of any size and have it filled to the brim with skim milk for a nickel. At that time, many people, including the author's parents, did not have steady jobs, but worked on a day-to-day piecemeal basis. Most of their income was made a nickel and a dime at a time, so the author describes his father, and himself doing many odd jobs for small wages. Despite these hardships, this is a tale of a boy and a family who was together and enjoyed each other and life. There was a lot of work to be done, but there was also a lot of together time, much of it with family and neighbors.
Ingold, Jeanette	<i>Hitch</i>	FIC	Teenager Moss Trawnley is on his own and desperate when he joins Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC means a job at a Montana camp and money for his family. Self-esteem and self-reliance. Friends and being a leader. A crash course in living with nature. And it means facing hard times and building something good.
Kalish, Mildred Armstrong	<i>Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression</i>	NON	Kalish's memoir of her Iowa childhood, set against the backdrop of the Depression, captures a vanished way of traditional living and a specific moment in American history in a story both illuminating and memorable. Kalish lived with her siblings, mother and grandparents-seven in all-both in a town home and, in warmer weather, out on a farm. The lifestyle was frugal in the extreme: "The only things my grandparents spent money on were tea, coffee, sugar, salt, white flour, cloth and kerosene." But in spite of the austere conditions, Kalish's memories are mostly happy ones: keeping the farm and home going, caring for animals, cooking elaborate multi-course meals and washing the large family's laundry once a week, by hand. Here, too, are stories of gossiping in the

			<p>kitchen, digging a hole to China with the "Big Kids" and making head cheese at butchering time. Kalish skillfully rises above bitterness and sentiment, giving her memoir a clear-eyed narrative voice that puts to fine use a lifetime of careful observation: "Observing the abundance of life around us was just so naturally a part of our days on the farm that it became a habit." Simple, detailed and honest, this is a refreshing and informative read for anyone interested in the struggles of average Americans in the thick of the Great Depression.</p>
McElvaine, Robert S.	<i>Down and Out in the Depression: Letters from the Forgotten Man</i>	NON	<p>Down and Out in the Great Depression is a moving, revealing collection of letters by the forgotten men, women, and children who suffered through one of the greatest periods of hardship in American history. Sifting through some 15,000 letters from government and private sources, Robert McElvaine has culled nearly 200 communications that best show the problems, thoughts, and emotions of ordinary people during this time. Unlike views of Depression life "from the bottom up" that rely on recollections recorded several decades later, this book captures the daily anguish of people during the thirties. It puts the reader in direct contact with Depression victims, evoking a feeling of what it was like to live through this disaster.</p>
McKay, James	<i>Spike!: The Journey of a Boy and His Dog During the Great Depression</i>	FIC	<p>Billy Creelman, the teenager in this story, grew up in the 1930's in the midst of the Great Depression and between two world wars, a turbulent and frightening time. Banks, factories, and stores went out of business. Hundreds of thousands of formerly proud workers stood for hours in food lines and on street corners in all kinds of weather, selling apples and pencils, or holding out tin cups for change. 'Brother can you spare a dime?' After the bank foreclosed on his parent's tiny dairy farm in Harford County, Maryland, the family was forced to split up. With his faithful companion and best friend, Spike, a Border collie at his side, Billy began hitchhiking to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he planned to live with his Uncle Dan, a war hero with a mysterious past. During their journey, Billy and Spike met some bad people and some good people. They suffered a violent separation, but after life-threatening experiences, were finally reunited under harrowing circumstances. On his journey, Billy saw firsthand some of the destructive effects of the World War and the Depression on the lives of Americans and for the first time looked fear in the face, and learned more than he could have imagined about violence and poverty.</p>
Roth, Benjamin	<i>The Great Depression</i>	NON	<p>This title offers a first-person diary account of living through the Great Depression, with haunting parallels to our own time. Benjamin Roth was born in New York City in 1894. When the stock market crashed in 1929, he had been practicing law for approximately</p>

			<p>ten years, largely representing local businesses. After nearly two years, he began to grasp the magnitude of what had happened to American economic life, and he began writing down his impressions in a diary that he maintained intermittently until he died in 1978. Roth's words from that unique time seem to speak directly to readers today. His perceptions and experiences have a chilling similarity to our own era. Like many of us, Roth struggles both to understand and to educate himself about what was going on around him. He is skeptical of big government, yet ultimately won over by FDR's New Deal. This collection of his diary entries, edited by James Ledbetter, editor of Slate's "The Big Money," reveals another side of the Great Depression - one lived through by ordinary, middle-class folks, who on a daily basis grappled with a swiftly changing economy coupled with anxiety about the unknown future. It is highly topical - and timely. The greatest financial disaster since the Great Depression has many Americans wondering what things were like as the Great Depression unfolded and people did not yet know how or when it would end. It is clear-eyed, readable - and eerily familiar. In short, concise, and thoughtful entries, Roth chronicles the most telling moments of the Great Depression, from the drop in the price of movie tickets to Hoover's failed free-market solutions to the rise in foreclosures in his hometown and how to benefit from 'bargains' at the much-diminished stock exchange. It is published one-year after the bankruptcy of Lehman Bros sent the world markets on a deep downward slide, and around the 80th anniversary of 'Black Tuesday'. It is presented in a beautiful package - endpapers using original diary entries, period photos throughout, and gorgeous interior design.</p>
Silver, Terry	<i>Nunzilla Was My Mother and My Stepmother Was a Witch</i>	NON	<p>Growing up in a two-parent home during the Great Depression was certainly no picnic, but living in an orphanage run by dozens of nuns was undoubtedly worse. Just ask Terry Gelormino Silver, the author of <i>Nunzilla Was My Mother and My Stepmother Was a Witch</i>. Terry spent her formative years under the care of so-called pious nuns who acted as if her very existence was a cross to bear. For so many years she kept these memories inside, as if waiting for the proper moment in time to let them out. Well, that time has come, and it is her readers who are the richer for it. Shining with rare insight and vivid descriptions that ably present a world most people can only imagine, this compelling memoir still manages to capture the magic of childhood and the anxiety of adolescence while granting readers a new understanding of an innocent era.</p>
Stanley, Jerry	<i>Children of the Dustbowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp</i>	NON	<p>Stanley has crafted a well-researched, highly readable portrait of the ``Okies'' driven to California by the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s and the formidable hardships they faced. After first detailing the desperation of their lives in the Midwest, he follows them on their trek across the western United States to the promise of work in California, where their</p>

			<p>hopes were dashed. After providing this thorough, sympathetic context of their plight, he zeroes in on the residents of Weedpatch Camp, one of several farm-labor camps built by the federal government. The remainder of the book is devoted to educator Leo Hart and the role he played in creating a ``federal emergency school." Interviews with Hart and the school's former teachers and pupils make Children of the Dust Bowl useful to students of oral history, as well as of the Depression. A thorough index enhances the research value of the book, although it is interesting enough to enjoy for itself. The book is lavishly illustrated with period black-and-white photographs. An informative and inspirational bit of American history.</p>
Taylor, Mildred D.	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	FIC	<p>Why is the land so important to Cassie's family? It takes the events of one turbulent year—the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she's black—to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logans their courage and pride—no matter how others may degrade them, the Logans possess something no one can take away.</p>
World War II			
Ayres, Travis L.	<i>The Bomber Boys: Heroes Who Flew the B-17s in World War II</i>	NON	<p>In World War II, there were all too many ways for a fighting man to die. But no theater of operations offered more fatal choices than the skies above Nazi-occupied Europe. Inside of a B-17 Bomber, thousands of feet above the earth, death was always a moment away. From the hellish storms of enemy flak and relentless strafing of Luftwaffe fighters, to mid-air collisions, mechanical failure, and simple bad luck, it's a wonder any man would volunteer for such dangerous duty. But some very brave men did.</p> <p>Some paid the ultimate price. Some made it home. But in the end, all would achieve victory.</p> <p>Here, author Travis L. Ayres has gathered a collection of previously untold personal accounts of combat and camaraderie aboard the B-17 Bombers that flew countless sorties against the enemy, as related by the men who lived and fought in the air—and survived. They are stories of heroism, sacrifice, miraculous survival and merciless warfare. But they should all be remembered...</p>
Bevor, Antony	<i>A Writer at War: A Soviet Journalist with</i>	NON	<p>When the Germans invaded Russia in 1941, Vasily Grossman became a special correspondent for the <i>Red Star</i>, the Soviet Army's newspaper, and reported from the frontlines of the war. <i>A Writer at War</i> depicts in vivid detail the crushing conditions on</p>

	<i>the Red Army, 1941-1945</i>		the Eastern Front, and the lives and deaths of soldiers and civilians alike. Witnessing some of the most savage fighting of the war, Grossman saw firsthand the repeated early defeats of the Red Army, the brutal street fighting in Stalingrad, the Battle of Kursk (the largest tank engagement in history), the defense of Moscow, the battles in Ukraine, the atrocities at Treblinka, and much more. Antony Beevor and Luba Vinogradova have taken Grossman's raw notebooks, and fashioned them into a gripping narrative providing one of the most even-handed descriptions --at once unflinching and sensitive -- we have ever had of what Grossman called “the ruthless truth of war.”
Bliven, Bruce	<i>Invasion: The Story of D-Day</i>	NON	June 6, 1944: The greatest amphibious invasion the world had ever seen was launched, involving thousands of ships, incredible planning and preparation, and a million courageous soldiers, sailors, and airmen willing to sacrifice their lives for victory. Author and journalist Bruce Bliven was there that day, on the beaches of France, and he recounts it all, from the risky plans developed by the American and British military leaders through the daring landing itself. Most important, he shares stories of individual bravery shown by soldiers who waded or parachuted ashore in what became the turning point of the war.
Borowski, Tadeusz	<i>This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen</i>	NON	Tadeusz Borowski's concentration camp stories were based on his own experiences surviving Auschwitz and Dachau. In spare, brutal prose he describes a world where the will to survive overrides compassion and prisoners eat, work and sleep a few yards from where others are murdered; where the difference between human beings is reduced to a second bowl of soup, an extra blanket or the luxury of a pair of shoes with thick soles; and where the line between normality and abnormality vanishes. Published in Poland after the Second World War, these stories constitute a masterwork of world literature.
Bradley, James	<i>Flags of Our Fathers</i>	NON	In February 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima—and into history. Through a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island’s highest peak. And after climbing through a landscape of hell itself, they raised a flag. Now the son of one of the flag raisers has written a powerful account of six very different young men who came together in a moment that will live forever. To his family, John Bradley never spoke of the photograph or the war. But after his death at age seventy, his family discovered closed boxes of letters and photos. In <i>Flags of Our Fathers</i> , James Bradley draws on those documents to retrace the lives of his father and

			<p>the men of Easy Company. Following these men’s paths to Iwo Jima, James Bradley has written a classic story of the heroic battle for the Pacific’s most crucial island—an island riddled with Japanese tunnels and 22,000 fanatic defenders who would fight to the last man.</p> <p>But perhaps the most interesting part of the story is what happened after the victory. The men in the photo—three were killed during the battle—were proclaimed heroes and flown home, to become reluctant symbols. For two of them, the adulation was shattering. Only James Bradley’s father truly survived, displaying no copy of the famous photograph in his home, telling his son only: “The real heroes of Iwo Jima were the guys who didn’t come back.”</p> <p>Few books ever have captured the complexity and furor of war and its aftermath as well as <i>Flags of Our Fathers</i>. A penetrating, epic look at a generation at war, this is history told with keen insight, enormous honesty, and the passion of a son paying homage to his father. It is the story of the difference between truth and myth, the meaning of being a hero, and the essence of the human experience of war.</p>
Buchheim, Lothar-Gunther	<i>Das Boot</i>	FIC	<p>Written by an actual survivor of Germany's U-boat fleet, <i>Das Boot</i> is one of the most exciting stories of naval warfare ever published, a tale filled with almost unbearable tension and suspense. In autumn 1941, a German U-boat commander and his crew set out on yet another hazardous patrol in the Battle of the Atlantic. Over the coming weeks they brave the ocean's stormy waters and seek out British supply ships to destroy. But their targets travel in well-guarded convoys. When contact finally occurs, the hunter quickly becomes the hunted, and a cat-and-mouse game begins as the U-boat hides deep beneath the surface of the sea. Soon, claustrophobia becomes an enemy almost as frightening as the depth charges exploding around them. The release of this supremely gripping, merciless intense story commemorates the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.</p>
Frank, Anne	<i>Diary of a Young Girl</i>	NON	<p>Discovered in the attic where she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank’s remarkable diary has become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.</p> <p>In 1942, as Nazis occupied Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in</p>

			<p>the secret upstairs rooms of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.</p> <p>In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, Anne's account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.</p>
Hersey, John	<i>Hiroshima</i>	NON	<p>On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic "that stirs the conscience of humanity" (The New York Times).</p> <p>Almost four decades after the original publication of this celebrated book, John Hersey went back to Hiroshima in search of the people whose stories he had told. His account of what he discovered about them is now the eloquent and moving final chapter of Hiroshima.</p>
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken</i>	NON	<p>The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. In evocative, immediate descriptions, Hillenbrand unfurls the story of Louie Zamperini--a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie's plane crashed into the ocean, and what happened to him over the next three years of his life is a story that will keep you glued to the pages, eagerly awaiting the next turn in the story and fearing it at the same time. You'll cheer for the man who somehow maintained his selfhood and humanity despite the monumental degradations he suffered, and you'll want to share this book with everyone you know.</p>
Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki	<i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>		<p>During World War II the community called Manzanar was hastily created in the high mountain desert country of California, east of the Sierras. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese American internees.</p> <p>One of the first families to arrive was the Wakatsukis, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. For Jeanne Wakatsuki, a seven-year-old child, Manzanar became a way of life in which</p>

			<p>she struggled and adapted, observed and grew. For her father it was essentially the end of his life.</p> <p>In <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston recalls life at Manzanar through the eyes of the child she was. She tells of her fear, confusion, and bewilderment as well as the dignity and great resourcefulness of people in oppressive and demeaning circumstances. Jeanne delivers a powerful first-person account that reveals her search for the meaning of Manzanar.</p> <p><i>Farewell to Manzanar</i> has become a staple of curriculum in schools and on campuses across the country. Named one of the twentieth century's 100 best nonfiction books from west of the Rockies by the San Francisco Chronicle.</p>
Jacobsen	<i>Night of Flames</i>	FIC	<p>Painting a vivid and terrifying picture of war-torn Europe during World War II, this tale chronicles the lives of Anna, a Krakow University professor, and her husband Jan, a Polish cavalryman. After they are separated and forced to flee occupied Poland, Anna soon finds herself caught up in the Belgian Resistance, while Jan becomes embedded in British Intelligence efforts to contact the Resistance in Poland. He soon realizes that he must seize this opportunity to search for his lost wife, Anna.</p>
Kershaw, Alex	<i>Against All Odds</i>	NON	<p>As the Allies raced to defeat Hitler, four men, all in the same unit, earned medal after medal for battlefield heroism. Maurice "Footsie" Britt, a former professional football player, became the very first American to receive every award for valor in a single war. Michael Daly was a West Point dropout who risked his neck over and over to keep his men alive. Keith Ware would one day become the first and only draftee in history to attain the rank of general before serving in Vietnam. In WWII, Ware owed his life to the finest soldier he ever commanded, a baby-faced Texan named Audie Murphy. In the campaign to liberate Europe, each would gain the ultimate accolade, the Congressional Medal of Honor.</p> <p>Tapping into personal interviews and a wealth of primary source material, Alex Kershaw has delivered his most gripping account yet of American courage, spanning more than six hundred days of increasingly merciless combat, from the deserts of North Africa to the dark heart of Nazi Germany. Once the guns fell silent, these four exceptional warriors would discover just how heavy the Medal of Honor could be—and how great the expectations associated with it. Having survived against all odds, who among them would finally find peace?</p>

Leckie, Robert	<i>Helmet for My Pillow: From Parris Island to the Pacific</i>	NON	<p>Here is one of the most riveting first-person accounts to ever come out of the Second World War.</p> <p>Robert Leckie was 21 when he enlisted in the US Marine Corps in January 1942.</p> <p>In <i>Helmet for My Pillow</i> we follow his journey, from boot camp on Parris Island, South Carolina, all the way to the raging battles in the Pacific, where some of the war's fiercest fighting took place. Recounting his service with the 1st Marine Division and the brutal action on Guadalcanal, New Britain and Peleliu, Leckie spares no detail of the horrors and sacrifice of war, painting an unsentimental portrait of how real warriors are made, fight, and all too often die in the defence of their country.</p> <p>Unparalleled in its immediacy and accuracy, <i>Helmet for My Pillow</i> is a gripping account from an ordinary soldier fighting in extraordinary conditions.</p>
Mansfield, Stephen	<i>Never Give In: The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill</i>	NON	<p>According to Henry Kissinger, “Our age finds it difficult to come to grips with Churchill. The political leaders with whom we are familiar generally aspire to be superstars rather than heroes. The distinction is crucial. Superstars strive for approbation; heroes walk alone. Superstars crave consensus; heroes define themselves by the judgment of a future they see it as their task to bring about. Superstars seek success in a technique for eliciting support; heroes pursue success as the outgrowth of their inner values.”</p> <p>Winston Churchill is a hero.</p> <p>In this incisive look at his leadership in action, we see what it was that enabled him to do what few others have ever accomplished in the long annals of history: stand for principle and prevail.</p>
McMurdie, William F	<i>Hey, Mac: A Combat Infantryman's Story</i>	NON	<p>If a WWII battle was to be won, it was finally up to the Infantry to do the job. Serving with the "A" Co., 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division, the author writes his experiences--from induction till discharge--in training, in combat, and as an occupation soldier. It includes the Battle of the Bulge, the advance to the Rhine, the Remagen Bridgehead, and more.</p>
Robbins, David L.	<i>War of the Rats (Rattenkrieg)</i>	FIC	<p>Drawing from real events, Robbins tells the story of one of the battle's most pivotal contests: the famous sniper duel between Chief Master Sergeant Vasily Zaitsev and S.S. Colonel Heinz Thorvald. Zaitsev, a cunning Siberian hunter hardened by Stalingrad's butchery, has formed an impromptu sniper school in the midst of the battle, training his</p>

			<p>comrades to kill with implacable efficiency. The hundreds of bodies left in their wake prompt the Nazi leadership to send Thorvald, the cold-blooded master of the Wehrmacht's elite sniper academy, to assassinate the Soviet prodigy. Robbins's nerve-wracking prose depicts the two adversaries as they pursue their private war across a twisted hellscape of burning tanks and gutted factories. In the novel's most impressive section, Robbins leaps between the thoughts of Zaitsev and Thorvald as they struggle, in their final battle, to put the crosshairs on each other's head. A war novel that reveals the shrewd savagery in human nature, <i>War of the Rats</i> vividly reveals why the Germans referred to the fighting at Stalingrad as <i>Der Rattenkrieg</i>.</p>
Samuel, Wolfgang	<i>German Boy</i>	NON	<p>In 1945 Samuel, then 10 years old, fled his home in Sagan, Germany, with his mother and younger sister, escaping just ahead of the Russian army's arrival. The author's memoir vividly depicts what it was like to be a child refugee (confused and frightened) in postwar Germany, constantly searching for food and a haven. Since Hedy, the author's mother, had been planning to divorce his father (a Luftwaffe officer), she refused to join him, but instead took Samuel and his sister to stay with her parents in the small town of Strasburg, which shortly became a Russian-occupied zone. Although the author had earlier viewed his mother as self-centered and unloving, he describes how his image of her changed during their years on the run, when he saw her make heroic efforts to keep her children alive. Attractive to men and clever, Hedy used her wits and charm, exchanging sex for food for her children. Their situation improved after the author's father found them and managed their transportation to a barracks in the American zone. Samuel's parents divorced and, in 1950, Hedy married a U.S. Army sergeant. The author moved with them to the U.S., where he completed his education and began a 30-year career in the air force. He has produced an engrossing and powerful narrative. Maps.</p>
Samuel, Wolfgang W.E.	<i>The War of Our Childhood</i>	NON	<p>These poignant memories by 27 German survivors of World War II relate how as children--ages 3 to 12--they endured air raids, hunger, terror, invading armies, and deprivation. Samuel tells of their resilience under the most trying circumstances and the critical role their mothers played in their lives. Samuel, a survivor himself and author of <i>German Boy: A Refugee's Story</i> (2000), relates that during the course of his interviews he encountered no one wanting revenge, and no one expressing a hate or dislike of people of other nations or ethnic groups because of events that happened long ago. He found that many of them are still troubled by the sounds, sights, or smells that remind them of war, bringing back the dark moments of childhood, and that few have shared completely their memories with their children.</p>

Sledge, E.B.	<i>With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa</i>	NON	<p>An Alabama boy steeped in American history and enamored of such heroes as George Washington and Daniel Boone, Eugene B. Sledge became part of the war's famous 1st Marine Division—3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Even after intense training, he was shocked to be thrown into the battle of Peleliu, where “the world was a nightmare of flashes, explosions, and snapping bullets.” By the time Sledge hit the hell of Okinawa, he was a combat vet, still filled with fear but no longer with panic.</p> <p>Based on notes Sledge secretly kept in a copy of the New Testament, <i>With the Old Breed</i> captures with utter simplicity and searing honesty the experience of a soldier in the fierce Pacific Theater. Here is what saved, threatened, and changed his life. Here, too, is the story of how he learned to hate and kill—and came to love—his fellow man.</p>
Shaara, Jeff	<i>The Rising Tide</i>	FIC	<p>As the book begins, Hitler's forces control western Europe, and U.S. troops face off against the Germans in North Africa. From fall 1942 through spring 1943, the Allies battle Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. Shaara evokes the agony of desert warfare and the utter chaos of an airborne assault through the experiences of Pvt. Jack Logan, a tank gunner, and Sgt. Jesse Adams, a paratrooper. The challenges—and frequent frustrations—of command are seen through the eyes of such luminaries as generals Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton and Rommel. The Allied victory in Africa is followed by the conquest of Sicily and the invasion of mainland Italy in 1943. With the Italian campaign sputtering, the Allies turn to planning for the decisive event of the European theater, the cross-channel invasion of France, which is where Shaara concludes this sprawling, masterful opening act.</p>
Shaara, Jeff	<i>The Steel Wave</i>	FIC	<p>The epic-scale novel opens on January 25, 1944, with British commandos gathering soil samples on Omaha Beach to assess landing sites. Shaara gives the Americans, called the great waves of steel by the Germans, their due portion in the grisly, brutal Allied invasion, and the experiences of the grunt soldiers—most notably the indefatigable U.S. Army Sgt. Jesse Adams—offers a field-level view of D-Day and afterward, generating more suspenseful reading than the matter-of-fact accounts of the big-brass dealings of Eisenhower and Churchill. The Allied leaders' personalities emerge with agile clarity, while German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel embodies the good soldier laboring under a delusional Hitler and German High Command ensconced in cozy Berlin. Rommel's ambivalent complicity in the assassination plot on Hitler is convincingly rendered and paves the way for the final act. The muscular prose, deft sense of military drama and relentless pacing are well suited for this crackerjack saga.</p>

Shaara, Jeff	<i>No Less than Victory</i>	FIC	Firmly straddling the ground between war novel and military history, the conclusion to Shaara's WWII European theater series contains the usual mix of real life military leaders and fictional soldiers in combat, recapitulating the last five months of the war, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of concentration camps. Shaara's real-life figures (generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt) mostly appear in stilted scenes to discuss strategy, while fictional characters carry the narrative by doing the fighting. Thanks to Shaara's visceral descriptive powers, we ride on a bombing mission with bombardier Sergeant Buckley as his B-17 flies through the flak-filled skies over Germany. With Private Benson, we feel the cold, deprivation and sense of dislocation of the Ardennes. And we sit in an observation post right on the Germans' doorstep as Captain Harroway calls down artillery fire on the enemy. In the end, Shaara delivers nothing we haven't already read in Stephen E. Ambrose's <i>Band of Brothers</i> or Cornelius Ryan's <i>The Last Battle</i> , but fans of military fiction will definitely gobble this up.
Tannehill, Evelyne	<i>Abandoned and Forgotten: An Orphan Girl's Tale of Survival During WWII</i>	NON	Abandoned and Forgotten is the memoir of a young girl growing up in the then-German province of East Prussia by the Baltic Sea. Orphaned at the age of nine and left to fend for herself in a hostile world, Evelyne Tannehill witnessed firsthand what happens when law and order break down and self-preservation becomes the only thing that matters. Her journey is a poignant example of how resilient the human spirit can be, even in the face of war's greatest horrors.
Ten Boom, Corrie	<i>The Hiding Place</i>	NON	<p>Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. In World War II she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work they were tested in the infamous Nazi death camps. Only Corrie among her family survived to tell the story of how faith ultimately triumphs over evil.</p> <p>Here is the riveting account of how Corrie and her family were able to save many of God's chosen people. For 35 years millions have seen that there is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still. Now <i>The Hiding Place</i>, repackaged for a new generation of readers, continues to declare that God's love will overcome, heal, and restore.</p>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse 5</i>	FIC	Don't let the ease of reading fool you--Vonnegut's isn't a conventional, or simple, novel. He writes, "There are almost no characters in this story, and almost no dramatic confrontations, because most of the people in it are so sick, and so much the listless

			<p>playthings of enormous forces. One of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters..." <i>Slaughterhouse-5</i> (taken from the name of the building where the POWs were held) is not only Vonnegut's most powerful book, it is as important as any written since 1945. Like <i>Catch- 22</i>, it fashions the author's experiences in the Second World War into an eloquent and deeply funny plea against butchery in the service of authority. <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> boasts the same imagination, humanity, and gleeful appreciation of the absurd found in Vonnegut's other works, but the book's basis in rock-hard, tragic fact gives it a unique poignancy--and humor.</p>
Zusak, Marcus	<i>The Book Thief</i>	FIC	<p>Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book--although she has not yet learned how to read--and her foster father uses it, <i>The Gravediggers Handbook</i>, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayors reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel's story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves.</p>
The Cold War			
Bardach, Janusz	<i>Man Is Wolf to Man: Surviving the Gulag</i>	NON	<p>In 1941, accidentally rolling a Soviet tank while fording a river was considered a death offense by the Red Army. Unfortunately for young Janusz Bardach, he committed just such an error; lucky for him that an old acquaintance from his hometown in Poland had enough rank and influence to commute the court-martial penalty from death to 10 years hard labor in Siberia. For the next four years, Bardach endured hellish conditions in various labor camps--first a logging camp, then a gold mine in the frozen north. Frigid temperatures, inadequate food and clothing combined with physical and spiritual malaise to bring prisoners first to the edge of despair and then to the brink of suicide. Bardach survived by turning his mind off, by refusing to remember happier times or to anticipate the future. He became, simply, a beast of burden, shuffling through the hours of his slavery until he could fall into the brief oblivion of sleep.</p>

			Ironically, it was a near brush with death that proved to be Bardach's salvation. After surviving an explosion, he was sent to a prison hospital where he managed to talk his way into a job as a medical assistant. There he gained both a new lease on life and a future profession. Released from his sentence early, in 1945, Bardach went on to become a surgeon. His memoir, <i>Man Is Wolf to Man</i> , is more than just an account of his sufferings in a Russian labor camp; it is also a meditation on the will to survive in the face of hopelessness, the occasional kindnesses of strangers in unexpected places, and above all, the struggle to remain human under the most inhumane conditions.
Dolot, Miron	<i>Execution by Hunger: The Hidden Holocaust</i>	NON	I read this book for a college World Food Problem class. I had no idea that this actually happened in our world history. The book was a huge eye-opener into the evils of human nature. Warning: this book is not a feel good, cozy fireplace read. It is the horrifying story of a young man that survived the systematic execution of his Ukrainian people by starvation. I thank God that I do not have the ability to understand such crimes on the human race. This period in history is one of the Earth's darkest. Between this starvation of Ukrainian people and the Holocaust of the Jews, we lost about 14 million people because of a couple country's leader's indifference to their people's lives. A good book and a powerful history lesson.
Figes, Orlando	<i>The Whisperers: Private Life in Stalin's Russia</i>	NON	One in eight people in the Soviet Union were victims of Stalin's terror—virtually no family was untouched by purges, the gulag, forced collectivization and resettlement, says Figes in this nuanced, highly textured look at personal life under Soviet rule. Relying heavily on oral history, Figes, winner of an L.A. Times Book Prize for <i>A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891–1924</i> , highlights how individuals attempted to maintain a sense of self even in the worst years of the Stalinist purges. More often than not, they learned to stay silent and conform, even after Khrushchev's thaw lifted the veil on some of Stalin's crimes. Figes shows how, beginning with the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, the Soviet experience radically changed personal and family life. People denied their experiences, roots and their condemned relatives in order to survive and, in some cases, thrive. At the same time, Soviet residents achieved great things, including the defeat of the Nazis in WWII, that Russians remember with pride. By seamlessly integrating the political, cultural and social with the stories of particular people and families, Figes retells all of Soviet history and enlarges our understanding of it.
Ginzburg, Eugenia	<i>Journey Into the Whirlwind</i>	NON	1937, the year that Eugenia Ginzburg was arrested and falsely charged as a Trotskyist terrorist counterrevolutionary, was only the beginning of Stalin's purges. Nearly six million people were arrested on trumped up charges, and millions were executed or

			perished in prisons and camps. Eugenia Ginzburg, an historian and loyal Communist Party member, chronicles her own terrifying arrest, interrogation, and eighteen-year imprisonment. She speaks with brutal honesty; her ability to recount the minutes and hours of her internment is surpassed only by her extraordinary will to survive. These memoirs are important for those who wish to understand Russian history and for anyone who has ever wondered how they might survive in a maelstrom, facing constant betrayals, overwhelming physical hardship, agonizing loneliness, and a longing for the past. Eugenia Ginzburg shows us "how thin the line is between high principles and blinkered intolerance" and yet she emerges from these pages as a compassionate woman with the "conviction that dignity and honor are not just empty words."
Irwin, James	<i>Destination Moon: The Spiritual and Scientific Voyage of the Eighth Man to Walk on the Moon</i>	NON	This book tells astronaut Irwin's incredible journey onto the great lunar wonder.
Konstantin, Anatole	<i>A Red Boyhood: Growing Up Under Stalin</i>	NON	Lamentably, Konstantin's story is common to millions of Soviet children from the 1930s and 1940s. The NKVD executed his father in 1938. In 1941, the 13-year-old, his younger brother, and his mother fled before the German invasion and survived the war under desperate circumstances. Returning after the German retreat to their Ukrainian hometown, they discovered the grim fates of friends and neighbors who had stayed. What stands out in Konstantin's account of these terrible times, besides a matter-of-fact, descriptive tone, is the author's fondness for his mother, who kept the family safe while enduring dangerous and appalling physical conditions. A resourceful woman, she seems to have improvised a solution to recurring crises of housing, food, shelter, and transportation; she never gave up. With such support, Konstantin managed to experience his adolescence along the usual lines of schools, favorite books, chums, and bullies—though his anecdotes in these categories are anything but usual. Replete with the perils of living under communism and in wartime, Konstantin's lucid memoir contributes to the body of civilian witness to World War II.
Marrin, Albert	<i>America and Vietnam: The Elephant and the Tiger</i>	NON	Fought in a small Asian country unfamiliar to most Americans at the time, the Vietnam War became a cause that divided the nation and defined a counter-culture. The first televised war, newscasters became a force creating the greatest anti-war movement in history, while American boys suffered and died in jungles and rice paddies against guerilla soldiers they rarely saw face to face.

			<p>As Marrin does so well, he brings an objective look at the complex issues that brought America into this war, that compelled her to stay there, and that prevented her from pursuing a definitive conclusion. Beginning with a history of Vietnam from ancient times, readers will understand the cultural, religious, and geo-political forces that made Vietnam a desirable territory conquered again and again by rival nations. They will learn how America's initial efforts to support anti-communist forces led to greater and greater involvement eventually spanning the administrations of Eisenhower, Kennedy, LBJ, and Nixon.</p> <p>Through photographs, perceptive epigraphs and first-person accounts, Marrin puts a human face on a multifaceted war. As Everett Alvarez, the longest-held POW in Vietnam, says of this book, "One of the book's strong points is that it portrays the war the way the men who fought remember it."</p>
O'Brien, Tim	<i>The Things They Carried</i>	NON	<p><i>The Things They Carried</i> depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three.</p> <p>Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing.</p>
Tobien, Karl	<i>Dancing Under the Red Star</i>	NON	<p>Margaret Werner (1921-1997), an American citizen living in the Soviet Union, was 17 years old when the secret police came for her father, whom she never saw again. Left destitute, she and her mother fought extreme cold and near starvation, taking whatever jobs they could find. Seven years later, in 1943, the police came for Margaret. Accused of espionage, she was sentenced to 10 years' hard labor. Tobien, her son, describes the appalling privations and backbreaking work in her Siberian prison camp, but also the prisoners' strong friendships and the dance troupe the women created with their guards' approval. A recurring theme is Margaret's growth in faith, culminating in her conversion to evangelical Christianity in 1991. Tobien tells his mother's story simply and chronologically, as if to a young audience. His use of a first-person point-of-view seems gratuitous, since he rarely explores Margaret's inner life. Despite the ever-present backdrop of Stalinist Russia, WWII and postwar communism in Russia and East Germany, this is less an analysis of cold war politics than a tribute to a woman who survived unimaginable horrors with her optimistic spirit intact.</p>

<p>Tzouliadis, Tim</p>	<p><i>The Forsaken: An American Tragedy in Stalinist Russia</i></p>	<p>NON</p>	<p><i>The Forsaken</i> starts with a photograph of a baseball team. The year is 1934, the image black and white: two rows of young men, one standing, the other crouching with their arms around one another's shoulders. They are all somewhere in their late teens or twenties, in the peak of health. We know most, if not all, of their names: Arthur Abolin, Walter Preeden, Victor Herman, Eugene Peterson. They hail from ordinary working families from across America—Detroit, Boston, New York, San Francisco. Waiting in the sunshine, they look just like any other baseball team except, perhaps, for the Russian lettering on their uniforms.</p> <p>These men and thousands of others, their wives, and children were possibly the least heralded migration in American history. Not surprising, maybe, since in a nation of immigrants few care to remember the ones who leave behind the dream. The exiles came from all walks of life. Within their ranks were Communists, trade unionists, and radicals of the John Reed school, but most were just ordinary citizens not overly concerned with politics. What united them was the hope that drives all emigrants: the search for a better life. And to any one of the millions of unemployed Americans during the Great Depression, even the harshest Moscow winter could sustain that promise.</p> <p>Within four years of that June day in Gorky Park, many of the young men in that photograph will be arrested and along with them unaccounted numbers of their fellow countrymen. As foreign victims of Stalin's Terror, some will be executed immediately in basement cells or at execution grounds outside the main cities. Others will be sent to the "corrective labor" camps, where they will be starved and worked to death, their bodies buried in the snowy wasteland. Two of the baseball players who survive and whose stories frame this remarkable work of history will be inordinately lucky. This book is the story of these men's lives—<i>The Forsaken</i> who lived and those who died.</p> <p>The result of years of groundbreaking research in American and Russian archives, <i>The Forsaken</i> is also the story of the world inside Russia at the time of Terror: the glittering obliviousness of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, the duplicity of the Soviet government in its dealings with Roosevelt, and the terrible finality of the Gulag system. In the tradition of the finest history chronicling genocide in the twentieth century, <i>The Forsaken</i> offers new understanding of timeless questions of guilt and innocence that continue to plague us today.</p>
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Waydenfield, Stefan	<i>The Ice Road: An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom</i>	NON	Waydenfeld's account of his Polish family's nomadic years during World War II is a real eye-opener. I cannot imagine packing everything I own into suitcases at gunpoint, forced to leave my home, sent off to an unknown future. And the Waydenfelds did it more than once! Waydenfeld doesn't mince words and his book is surprisingly unsentimental. There is no woe-is-me - and he sure had reason! - at all. His family went from middle class existence (his father was a doctor; his mother a bacteriologist) to working the most brutal of jobs in the most brutal of conditions in a Siberian labor camp. Reading his account of logging in Siberia and in particular of the night work on the ice road, I vow to never complain about the cold again. In such circumstances, it'd be easy to lose hope. Yet he keeps focused on the future and a return to his education. Among the items Waydenfeld lugged from place to place were school books. How many of us can say we would have done the same? I'm not sure I would have had the fortitude to endure half of what he did, let alone with so little complaint and hatred for those who essentially robbed him of so much.
Zamyatin, Yevgeniy	<i>We</i>	FIC	In the One State of the great Benefactor, there are no individuals, only numbers. Life is an ongoing process of mathematical precision, a perfectly balanced equation. Primitive passions and instincts have been subdued. Even nature has been defeated, banished behind the Green Wall. But one frontier remains: outer space. Now, with the creation of the spaceship Integral, that frontier -- and whatever alien species are to be found there -- will be subjugated to the beneficent yoke of reason. One number, D-503, chief architect of the Integral, decides to record his thoughts in the final days before the launch for the benefit of less advanced societies. But a chance meeting with the beautiful 1-330 results in an unexpected discovery that threatens everything D-503 believes about himself and the One State. The discovery -- or rediscovery -- of inner space...and that disease the ancients called the soul. A page-turning SF adventure, a masterpiece of wit and black humor that accurately predicted the horrors of Stalinism, <i>We</i> is the classic dystopian novel. Its message of hope and warning is as timely at the end of the twentieth century as it was at the beginning.