

What I've Been Reading & Recommending: March 2011-March 2012

(Books are listed from most recently read to least recently read)

Penny Kittle

Realistic Fiction/Young Adult Literature

Grades 4-8+ (characters and situations are late elementary school, but the appeal of great writing is, of course, for all ages)

Wonder by A. J. Palacio

The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis

Hound Dog True by Linda Urban

The Wild Things by Dave Eggers

Among the Hidden by M. Peterson Haddox

Gossamar by Lois Lowry

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursaby

Middle School: The Worst Years of Your Life by James Patterson

Grades 6-12 (tame, relatively clean situations but high interest)

delirium by Lauren Oliver

pandemonium by Lauren Oliver

divergent by Veronica Roth

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt

Following Atticus by Tom Ryan (Atticus is his dog, not TKAM character)

Also Known as Rowan Pohn by Ralph Fletcher

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson

Trash by Andy Mulligan

Bigger Than a Breadbox by Laurel Snyder

A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron

6-12 Starter books (easier, faster, less demanding texts for those who haven't read much)

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick

Black and White by Paul Violaoponi

..or not? by Brian Mandabach

The Fat Boy Chronicles by Diane Lang

The Things a Brother Knows by Dana Reinhardt

Sweet, Hereafter by Angela Johnson

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by J. Boyne

Shooting Kabul by N. H. Senzei

The Chronicles of Harris Burdick edited by Chris Van Allsburg

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings

Graphic Novels

A.D. After the Deluge by John Neufeld

Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol

My Mommy is in America and She Met Buffalo Bill by Jean Regnaud & Emilie Bravo

Grades 9-12 (beware of language and some sexual situations)

Everybody Sees the Ants by A. S. King

Please Ignore Vera Dietz by A. S. King

Why We Broke Up by Daniel Handler, art by Maira Kalman

The Faults in Our Stars by John Green

How to Save a Life by Sara Zarr

Falling for Hamlet by Michelle Ray

How We Are Hungry by Dave Eggers (short stories)

Shine by Lauren Myracle

Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok

Where She Went by Gayle Forman

After by Amy Efav

Day Into Night by Anita Diamond

The Miles Between by Mary Pearson

War Dances by Sherman Alexie

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

Faithful Place by Tana French

The Sky is Everywhere by Jandy Nelson

The Hole We're In by Gabrielle Zevin

9-12 Starter books (easier, faster, less demanding texts for those who haven't read much)

How to Steal a Car by Pete Hautman

Letters from a Dead Girl by Jo Knowles

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky by Heidi W. Durrow

The Fifth Rule by Don Aker

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Meyers

Duff (Designated Ugly Fat Friend) by Kody Keplinger

Head Case by Sarah Aronson

Thirteen Little Envelopes by Maureen Johnson

One Day by David Nicholls

Grades 11-12+ (mature readers &/or very difficult reading in length, complexity, pace)

Sophie's Choice by William Styron

Trash by Dorothy Allison (short stories)

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

Too Much Happiness by Alice Munro

Evening by Susan Minot

Every Last One by Anna Quindlen

The Solace of Open Spaces by Gretel Ehrlich (short, but dense, slow, & beautiful)
Don't Breathe a Word by Holly Cupala
Everything is Illuminated by Jonathan Safran Foer
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
Last Night in Montreal by Emily St. John Mandel
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
Incendiary by Chris Cleave
Freedom by Jonathon Franzen
The Marriage Plot by Jeffery Eugenidies
So Much Pretty by Cara Hoffman
The Virgin Suicides by Jeffery Eugenidies
Great House by Nichole Krauss
Losing Charlotte by Heather Clay
Shopgirl by Steve Martin
Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell
Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

Non-fiction 6-12

Three Cups of Deceit by Jonathon Krakauer
The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore
Start Something That Matters by Blake Mycoskie
Food Rules by Michael Pollan

Non-fiction 9-12

Columbine by Dave Cullen
Fifth Avenue, 5 a.m.: Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's, and the Dawn of the Modern Woman by Sam Wasson
War by Sebastian Junger
The Brontes: Charlotte Bronte and her Family by Rebecca Fraser

Biography/Memoir

Is Everybody Having Fun Without Me? By Mindy Kaling
Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
I am Nujood, Age 10 & Divorced by Nujood ali
Townie by Andre Dubus III
Bossypants by Tina Fey
The Foremost Good Fortune by Susan Conley
My Father's Summers by Kathi Applet
Instead of a Letter by Diana Anthill
Blue Nights by Joan Didion
Makes Me Wanna Holler by Nathan McCall
Always Running by Luis Rodriguez
Life in Prison by Tookie Williams

Knucklehead by Jon Scieszka

Poetry

The Poet Slave of Cuba by Margarita Engle

Reviewing the Skull by Judith Michaels

Award Winners (National Book Award, Pulitzer, Booker Prize, others)

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes

A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

The Imperfectionists by Tom Rachman

Classics

The Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers

A Rage in Harlem by Chester B. Himes

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

1984 by George Orwell

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Walden by Henry David Thoreau

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen

Persuasion by Jane Austen

The Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

For Teachers

Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses by Richard Arum & Josipa Roksa

The Art of Slow Reading by Tom Newkirk

Write Like This by Kelly Gallagher

Ten Things Every Writer Needs to Know by Jeff Anderson

The Power of Reading by Stephen Krashen

What Teaching Really Means (release date:)

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team by Patrick Lencioni

The Comprehension Experience by W. Dorsey Hammond & Denise D. Nessel

The Pleasure of Reading in the Age of Distraction by Alan Jacobs

Teaching with Intention by Debbie Miller

Mentor, a Memoir by Tom Grimes

Breathing In, Breathing Out: Keeping a Writer's Notebook by Ralph Fletcher

What Really Matters in Fluency by Richard Allington

Why Boys Fail by Richard Whitmire

The Energy to Teach by Donald Graves
The Bee Eater: Michelle Ree Takes on the Nation's Worst School District by Richard Whitmire
What Really Matters with Struggling Readers by Richard Allington
The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr
Discover Your Own Literacy by Donald Graves
How to Catch a Shark by Donald Graves
The Reader's Notebook by Aimee Buckner
Why Students Don't Like School by Daniel T. Willingham
Create Dangerously by Edwidge Danticat
Building a Reading Life by Lucy Calkins
Read to Write by Donald M. Murray
Proust & the Squid by Maaryanne Wolf
Sit Down and Teach Up by Katie Wood Ray & Matt Glover
Mentor Author, Mentor Text by Ralph Fletcher
Nurture Shock: New Thinking About Children by Po Bronson
Conferring: the Keystone of Reader's Workshop by Patrick Allen
So What Do They Really Know? By Cris Tovani
Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire
Why School? By Michael Rose
The Lost Art of Reading: Why Books Matter in a Distracted Time by David Ulin
Drive by Daniel Pink
The Pleasure of Reading in the Age of Distraction by Alan Jacobs