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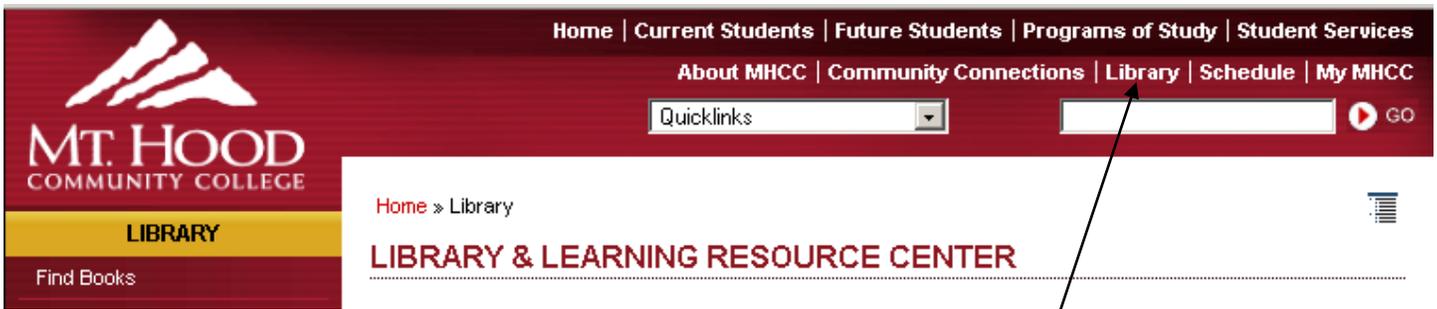
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Author: [Sebold, Alice](#)
Title: **The lovely bones : a novel / Alice Sebold.**
Publication Info.: Boston : Little, Brown, 2002.



Location	Call Number	Status
Circulation Shelves	PS3619.E26 L68 2002	DUE 06-14-10



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Circulation Shelves	PS3619.E26 L68 2002	DUE 06-14-10



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The lovely bones : a novel
by Alice Sebold
Book : Fiction
Language: English
Publisher: Boston : Little, Brown, 2002.
Libraries that own this item: **Mt. Hood Community College Library**
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- 

BOOKS - Novel of the week - The Lovely Bones
by Lisa Allardice; Alice Sebold
Article
Language: English
Publication: New statesman. (August 19, 2002): 39
Publisher: London : New Statesman Ltd., 1996-
Database: ArticleFirst
Libraries that own this item: **Summit Libraries**
- 

The lovely bones
by Peter Jackson; Fran Walsh; Carolynne Cunningham; Aim Tucci; Susan Sarandon; Brian Eno; Andrew Lesnie; Alice Se
WingNut Films (Firm);
DVD video : NTSC color broadcast system
Language: English
Publisher: Hollywood, Calif. : Paramount Home Entertainment, ©2010.
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RD90 OUTSIDE READING REQUIREMENT:



This term you will need to read one (appx. 300 pages) book. If you select a shorter book, please select a second book. When you are finished reading one or two books, you are required to fill out and turn in an OUTSIDE READING form that will be available.

Please Note: 1) * means very popular and not too difficult
2) students may read more than 300 pages for extra credit!

You must read at least one book from this list:

***The Language of Baklava* by Diana Abu-Jaber**

MEMOIR

A coming-of-age memoir about seeking identity through the foods of childhood. The daughter of a Jordanian father and an American mother, Abu-Jaber was raised in upstate New York but spent long periods of time in Jordan. She peppers her story with recipes and with recollections about her family.

****Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom**

MEMOIR

Mitch Albom's mentor was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly 20 years ago. He lost track of Morrie, but rediscovered him in the last months of the older man's life. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

***Indian Killer* by Sherman Alexie**

NOVEL

A serial killer is stalking Seattle--taking the scalps of white males. Dubbed the "Indian Killer" by the local populace, the murderer's action have thrown the city's Native American community into turmoil.

***Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison**

NOVEL

Bone confronts illegitimacy, poverty, the troubled marriage of her mother and stepfather, and the stigma of being considered "white trash" as she comes of age in South Carolina.

***In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez**

NOVEL

A tale of courage and sisterhood set in the Dominican Republic during the rise of the Trujillo dictatorship, inspired by the true story of the three Mirabal sisters who, in 1960, were murdered for their part in an underground plot to overthrow the government.

***Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya**

NOVEL

Set in New Mexico on the border between a small village and the huge llano (plains), Bless Me, Ultima is an award-winning coming-of-age novel from the Hispanic perspective. Antonio is torn between his father's cowboy side of the family who ride on the llano and his mother's village and farming relations.

***I Know why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

MEMOIR

In the first volume of an extraordinary autobiographical series, one of the most inspiring authors of our time recalls--with candor, humor, poignancy and grace--how her journey began.

****Alicia: My Story* by Alicia Appleman-Jurman**

MEMOIR

After losing her entire family to the Nazis at age 13, Alicia Appleman-Jurman went on to save the lives of thousands of Jews, offering them her own courage and hope in a time of upheaval and tragedy.

***It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life* by Lance Armstrong**

MEMOIR

The story of Lance Armstrong, the seven-time winner of the Tour de France, and his fight against cancer.

***Everything good will come: a novel* by Sefi Atta**

NOVEL

Atta's novel charts the fate of two African girls, one born of privilege and the other a lower class "half-caste"--one who is prepared to manipulate the traditional system while the other attempts to defy it.

***A Place to Stand: the Making of a Poet* by Jimmy Santiago Baca**

MEMOIR

From one of America's most acclaimed poets comes a powerful memoir of childhood on the small farms of New Mexico, his adolescence spent in orphanages and detention centers, his years as a drug dealer, and his stunning personal redemption inside the walls of a maximum security prison.

***The Importance of a Piece of Paper: Stories* by Jimmy Santiago Baca**

NOVEL

Stories that explore the territory where old-world traditions meet new-world ambitions, and characters try to make something of themselves, while keeping their souls intact.

***Shanghai Diary: ... Journey from Hitler's Hate to War-Torn China* by Ursula Bacon**

MEMOIR

Tens of thousands of Middle-European refugees, fleeing Hitler's brutal regime, set their hopes for freedom on Shanghai - the only open port available. Eleven-year-old Ursula Bacon was one such refugee, narrowly escaping with her parents from the clutches of the SS.

***Midnight at the Dragon Café: a novel* by Judy Fong Bates**

NOVEL

Set in a small Ontario town in the 1960s, the story of ... Su-Jen and her parents [who] settle uneasily into their new life in a town where they are the only Chinese family, isolated by language and long hours at the diner they own. Things change when Lee-Kung, Su-Jen's half-brother, arrives.

***How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America* by Moustafa Mohamed Bayoumi**

The story of how young Arab and Muslim Americans are forging lives for themselves in a country that often mistakes them for the enemy.

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah**

MEMOIR

An "Everybody Reads" selection at Multnomah County Public Library. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah, now 25, tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence.

***Warriors Don't Cry: ... the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* by Melba Patillo Beals**

In 1957 Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm.

MEMOIR

***How does it feel to be a problem? : being young and Arab in America* by Moustafa Bayoumi**

NOVEL

Bayoumi presents the story of how young Arab and Muslim Americans are forging lives in a country that often mistakes them for the enemy.

***Black Elk Speaks: ... Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux* by Black Elk with John Neihardt**

MEMOIR

The story of the Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863–1950) and his people during the momentous twilight years of the nineteenth century.

***Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, & Coming of Age in the Bronx* by Adrienne Blanc**

NONFICTION

The result of over ten years of immersion reporting, "Random Family" charts a tumultuous decade in which girls become mothers, mothers become grandmothers, boys become criminals, and hope struggles against deprivation.

***Postville: a Clash of Cultures in Heartland America* by Stephen Bloom**

NONFICTION

In 1987, a group of Lubavitchers, one of the most orthodox and zealous of the Jewish sects, opened a kosher slaughterhouse just outside tiny Postville, Iowa (pop. 1,465). When the business became a worldwide success, Postville found itself both revived and divided.

***Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian**

NOVEL

On a violent, stormy winter night, a home birth goes disastrously wrong. The mother dies but the baby is saved thanks to an emergency C-section. And then the nightmare begins: the assistant suggests that maybe the woman wasn't really dead when the midwife operated.

***Golden Boy: Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood* by Martin Booth**

MEMOIR

At seven years old, Martin Booth found himself with all of Hong Kong at his feet. His father was posted there in 1952, and this memoir is his telling of that youth, a time when he had access to the corners of a colony normally closed to a "Gweilo," a "pale fellow" like him."

***The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle**

NOVEL

Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered life in a newly gated hilltop community. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation. A freak accident brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact.

***Code Talker: a Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac**

NOVEL

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

***The Tequila Worm* by Viola Canales**

NOVEL

Sofia grows up in the close-knit community of the barrio in McAllen, Texas, then finds that her experiences as a scholarship student at an Episcopal boarding school in Austin only strengthen her ties to family and her "comadres."

***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card**

NOVEL

An easy to read science fiction. In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers.

****Gifted Hands: the Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson with Cecil Murphey**

MEMOIR

Ben Carson, M.D., works medical miracles. Today, he's one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. In *Gifted Hands*, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital at age 33.

***You Remind Me of Me: a novel* by Dan Chaon**

NOVEL

Dan Chaon examines questions of identity, fate, and circumstance: Why do we become the people we become? How do we end up stuck in lives we never wanted? And how can we change the course of what seems inevitable?

***Grab on to Me Tightly As If I Knew the Way* by Bryan Charles**

NOVEL

It's 1992, and Vim Sweeney, newly graduated from high school, is washing dishes at the Gull Lake Cafe side by side with dour ex-felon Wendell, wondering all the while if "it's too early in the game to concede defeat."

***What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day: a novel* by Pearl Cleage**

NOVEL

On learning she has the AIDS virus, Ava Johnson closes her beauty parlor in Atlanta and returns to her hometown in Michigan, devoting herself to counseling black girls in trouble. In the process she falls in love with a man convicted of murder. A look at the problems facing black youth.

***Abeng* by Michelle Cliff**

NOVEL

Clare is twelve years old, the light-skinned daughter of a middle-class family, growing up among the complex contradictions of class versus color, blood versus history, in a colonized country. A lyrical, explosive coming-of-age story combined with a provocative retelling of the colonial history of Jamaica.

***Veronika Decides to Die* by Paulo Coelho (translated from Portuguese by Margaret Jull Costa)**

NOVEL

Twenty-four-year-old Veronika seems to have everything. But one cold November morning Veronika decides to die. She takes a handful of sleeping pills expecting never to wake up. But she does -- at a mental hospital where she is told that she has only days to live.

***Disgrace* by J. M Coetzee**

NOVEL

A white woman is gang-raped by blacks in this novel on post-apartheid South Africa. But she understands such settling of scores is inevitable, given what whites did to blacks, and she keeps the baby.

***Maggie's American Dream: The Life and Times of a Black Family* by James P. Comer**

NONFICTION

This inspiring black family success story centers on an exceptional woman, Maggie Comer, whose American dream brought her from abject poverty in the rural South to become the mother of five outstanding achievers.

***The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly**

NOVEL

After the death of his mother, 12-year-old David mourns her loss alone in his attic bedroom, with only his books to keep him company. David goes on a search for *The Book of Lost Things*; this book will help David find his way home.

***The Children of the River* by Linda Crew**

NOVEL

Having fled Cambodia four years earlier to escape the Khmer Rouge army, seventeen-year-old Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and enjoying life in her Oregon high school as a "regular" American.

***The Farming of Bones: a novel* by Edwidge Danticat**

NOVEL

A novel on a massacre of Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic of the 1930s. The protagonists are two Haitian lovers, a sugarcane cutter and a maid. Twenty thousand people died in a government-led campaign of ethnic cleansing.

***The Dew Breaker* by Edwidge Danticat**

NOVEL

A brilliant, deeply moving work of fiction that explores the world of a "dew breaker" - a torturer - a man whose brutal crimes in the country of his birth lie hidden beneath his new American reality.

***The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai**

NOVEL

In a crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga in the Himalayas, lives an embittered judge who wants only to retire in peace from a world he has found too messy for justice, when his orphaned granddaughter, Sai, arrives on his doorstep.

***No Angel: My Harrowing Undercover Journey to the Inner Circle of the Hells Angels* by Jay Dobyns.**

This story of a two-year undercover investigation of the Arizona Hells Angels begins at the end and then backs up to tell the whole story.

MEMOIR

***The Broken Cord* by Michael Dorris**

MEMOIR

Michael Dorris' story of his adopted son Adam, born with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), explores the enormous scope of the disease and parallels one father's endless battle to overcome the problem.

***Before I Die* by Jenny Downham**

NOVEL

Four years after being diagnosed with leukemia, British teenager Tessa, 16, knows she has almost no time left. The story brings out all the elemental emotions-especially Tessa's anger and frustration at being stuck in bed while others get on with their lives.

***Travels with Lizbeth: Three Years On the Road and On the Streets* by Lars Eighner**

MEMOIR

The true story of a homeless man and his dog named Lizbeth, and their unbelievable, funny and poignant adventures on the road and on the streets.

***His Mother's Son* by Cai Emmons**

NOVEL

To those who meet Jana Thomas, hers seems a perfect life, with a beautiful home, a successful career, a loving husband, and a darling son. But inside, Jana is crumbling. The real source of Jana's disintegration

is a past she has kept buried for 16 years.

***Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger**

NOVEL

Through the voice of 11-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy obsessed with cowboys living in 1960s Minnesota, the story is told of the Land family's cross-country search for Reuben's outlaw older brother, who has been charged with murder. (Great read! Not hard and very good story.)

***Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich**

NOVEL

The first book in Erdrich's Native American tetralogy that includes *The Beet Queen*, *Tracks*, and *The Bingo Palace* is an authentic and emotionally powerful glimpse into the Native American experience.

***Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures* by Anne Fadiman**

NONFICTION

When three-month-old Lia Lee Arrived at the county hospital emergency room in Merced, California, a chain of events was set in motion from which neither she nor her parents nor her doctors would ever recover.

***Another Bullshit Night in Suck City: a memoir* by Nick Flynn**

MEMOIR

Nick Flynn met his father for the third time when he was twenty-seven years old, working as a case-worker in a homeless shelter in Boston. Nick, his own life precariously unsettled, was living alternately in a ramshackle boat and in a warehouse that was once a strip joint.

***Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

NOVEL

Oskar Schell is nine years old. And he is on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York. His mission is to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11.

***Before Women Had Wings* by Connie May Fowler**

NOVEL

A nine-year-old girl's harrowing account of abuse at the hands of her parents. Her name is Avocet Jackson, but her mother called her Bird, naming both her children after birds, "her logic being that if we were named for something with wings then maybe we'd be able to fly above the shit in our lives."

****A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey**

MEMOIR

When he entered a residential treatment center at the age of twenty-three, James Frey had destroyed his body and his mind almost beyond repair. He faced a stark choice: accept that he wasn't going to see twenty-four or step into the fallout of his smoking wreck of a life and take drastic action.

***Hole in My Life* by Jack Gantos**

MEMOIR

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

***Memoirs of a Geisha: a novel* by Arthur Golden**

NOVEL

A fisherman's daughter in 1930s Japan rises to become a famous geisha. After training, Sayuri's virginity is sold to the highest bidder, then the school finds her a general for a patron. When he dies, she is reunited with the only man she loved.

***Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa* by Rigoberto Gonzales**

MEMOIR

Growing up among poor migrant Mexican farm workers, González also faces the pressure of coming-of-age as a gay man in a culture that prizes machismo.

***The Confessions of Max Tivoli* by Andrew Sean Greer**

NOVEL

At his birth, Max's father declares him a *Nisse*, a creature of Danish myth, as his baby son has the external physical appearance of an old, dying creature. Max grows older like any child, but his physical age appears to go backward - on the outside a very old man, but inside still a fearful child.

***Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson**

NOVEL

In Washington State, the trial of Kabuo Miyomoto, a Japanese-American fisherman accused of murdering another fisherman, Carl Heine. The prosecution charges the murder was committed as revenge for the Heine family taking Miyomoto's land at the outbreak of World War II.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon**

NOVEL

Narrated by a 15 yr-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling weaves together an old fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming of age story and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of possessing emotions.

***Ghost Girl: the True Story of a Girl in Peril & the Teacher Who Saved Her* by Torey Hayden** **NONFICTION**

Despite efforts to reach her, Jadie remained locked in her own troubled world -- until one remarkable teacher persuaded her to break her self-imposed silence..

***One Child* by Torey Hayden**

NONFICTION

A six-year-old girl named Sheila tries to burn a three-year-old boy. There is no place for her at the hospital, so she becomes a pupil in the class of Torey Hayden, where she spends five months.

***Hiroshima* by John Hersey**

NONFICTION

Hiroshima is the story of what six people -- a clerk, a widowed seamstress, a physician, a Methodist minister, a young surgeon, and a German Catholic priest -- were doing at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, when Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atomic bomb ever dropped on a city.

***The Skinwalkers* by Tony Hillerman**

NOVEL

Navajo Tribal Police Officer Jim Chee and Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn investigate murders that lead them into spine-tingling and mystical world of Navajo witchcraft. Chee and Leaphorn's efforts to solve the seemingly unrelated individual crimes leave them with clues that point toward one suspect.

***A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby**

NOVEL

Four people come together on New Year's Eve and encounter one another on the roof of Topper's House, a London destination famous as the last stop for those ready to end their lives. This is a tale of connections made and missed, punishing regrets, and the grace of second chances.

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

NOVEL

An epic tale of fathers and sons, of friendship and betrayal, that takes us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the atrocities of the present in an unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant.

***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

NOVEL

All children should believe they are special. But the students of Hailsham, an elite school in the English countryside, are so special that visitors shun them, and only by rumor and the occasional fleeting remark by a teacher do they discover their unconventional origins and strange destiny. A harder read.

***Beasts of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala**

NOVEL

Set in an unnamed West African country, Iweala's first novel shows civil war from a child's viewpoint. After his mother and sister escape and his father is killed, the traumatized young narrator is discovered by guerrilla fighters.

***Dangerous Minds [My Posse Don't Do Homework]* by LouAnne Johnson**

MEMOIR

A fiesty female ex-Marine teaches a class of inner-city high school students about self-respect, courage and success. What had been called "the class from hell" went on to defy everyone's expectations, and proved that LouAnne Johnson's unorthodox technique worked.

***The Swallows of Kabul* by Yasmina Khadra (translated from the French by John Cullen)**

NOVEL

Two men struggle to keep their sanity in a brief, despairing novel written pseudonymously by a former Algerian Army officer.

****The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

NOVEL

Set in South Carolina in 1964, a remarkable story about mothers and daughters and the women in our lives who become our true mothers.

***Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder**

NONFICTION

In medical school, Paul Farmer found his life's calling: to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. Tracy Kidder's magnificent account shows how one person can make a difference in solving global health problems.

***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver**

NOVEL

Taylor Greer leaves Kentucky and heads west to find a new life. When a baby is abandoned in her car, she learns that responsibilities and independence are not mutually exclusive.

***Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* by Jonathan Kozol**

NONFICTION

Discusses the disparities in education between schools of different classes and races, and argues that racial segregation is still alive and well in the American educational system.

***Rocket Science* by Jay Lake**

NOVEL

When Vernon's friend Floyd returns to Kansas after World War II, he brings back an entire top-secret aircraft formerly buried in the Arctic. Staying just one step ahead of government agencies, Vernon and Floyd have to figure out how to direct the plane's internal intelligence system.

***The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

NONFICTION

Bringing Chicago circa 1893 to vivid life, Erik Larson's spellbinding bestseller intertwines the true tale of two men--the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair, striving to secure America's place in the world; and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

NOVEL

Lawyer Atticus Finch defends a black man charged with the rape of a white woman. Through the eyes of Atticus's children, Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930's.

***River Song: a novel* by Craig Lesley**

NOVEL

Danny Kachiah, an Oregonian Nez Perce drifter and failed rodeo rider, is determined to get closer to his son, Jack, to teach him traditional ways to steer him away from rodeoing.

***Where the Heart Is* by Billie Letts**

NOVEL

Novalee Nation, 17 years old and seven months pregnant, hides in an Oklahoma Wal-Mart store, gives birth and becomes a celebrity as the mother of the Wal-Mart Baby. Novalee soon discovers the treasures hiding in this small Southwest town

***Angry Black White Boy, or, The Miscegenation of Mason Detornay* by Adam Mansbach**

NOVEL

Macon Detornay is a suburban white boy possessed and politicized by black culture, and filled with rage toward white America. After moving to New York City for college, Macon begins robbing white passengers in his taxicab, setting off a manhunt for the black man presumed to be committing the crimes.

***In Country: a novel* by Bobbie Ann Mason**

NOVEL

Sam Hughes, whose father was killed in Vietnam, feels that her life is bound to the war and becomes obsessed with the idea and the reluctance of her family to talk about it. Her father's diary finally provides the insight she cannot accept until she has visited the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

***The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride**

MEMOIR

Ruth McBride Jordan is a self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage.

***The Interruption of Everything* by Terry McMillan**

NOVEL

Marilyn Grimes, wife and mother of three, has made a career of deferring her dreams to build a suburban California home and lifestyle with her husband, Leon. But at forty-four, Marilyn's got too much on her plate and nothing to feed her passion. She feels like she's about ready to jump. She's just not sure where.

***Empress Orchid* by Anchee Min**

NOVEL

The fascinating story of a young Chinese concubine who becomes china's last empress, the beautiful Tzu Hsi, known as Orchid. When china is threatened by enemies, she alone seems capable of holding her country together.

***Rock Star Superstar* by Blake Nelson**

NOVEL

When Pete, a talented bass player, moves from playing in the high school jazz band to playing in a popular rock group, he finds the experience exhilarating even as his new fame jeopardizes his relationship with girlfriend Margaret. A Young Adult Book/ an easy read.

***Dreams From My Father: a story of race and inheritance* by Barack Obama**

MEMOIR

Barack Obama, a black man raised by his white mother and grandparents, decided to journey to Kenya to learn more about his African father after receiving news of his death. This memoir is not about his father's life, but about Obama's, and he brings that home with an intimate tone.

No No Boy by **John Okada**

NOVEL

A young Japanese American man refuses to serve in the US military during World War II while his family is being held in an internment camp. Takes place mainly in Seattle during the 1940s.

Bel Canto: a novel by **Ann Patchett**

NOVEL

A novel of love, opera, and terrorism set in South America. Two couples, complete opposites, fall in love; sexual identities become confused; and a horrific imprisonment is transformed into an unexpected heaven on earth.

***A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive** by **Dave Pelzer**

MEMOIR

The unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother [who] no longer considered him a son, but a slave; and no longer a boy, but an "it."

***The Lost Boy: a Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family** by **Dave Pelzer**

MEMOIR

Dave Pelzer's long-awaited sequel to *A Child Called "IT"* answers questions & reveals new adventures through the compelling story of his life as an adolescent, in this harrowing but ultimately uplifting true story of a boy's journey through the foster-care system, in search of a family to love.

A Brother's Journey: Surviving a Childhood of Abuse by **Richard B. Pelzer**

MEMOIR

The brother of the author of *A Child Called "It"* reveals the full story of his unspeakable parental abuse.

The Bell Jar by **Sylvia Plath**

NOVEL

The brilliant and disturbing story of Esther Greenwood's journey from the glamorous world of magazine publishing in New York to the isolating world of the asylum has become one of the most famous books of the twentieth century, and still has all its power to shock and move us.

***The Hot Zone: a Terrifying True Story** by **Richard Preston**

NONFICTION

A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus.

A Changed Man: a novel by **Francine Prose**

NOVEL

On an unseasonably warm spring afternoon, a young neo-Nazi named Vincent Nolan walks into the Manhattan office of World Brotherhood Watch, a human rights foundation headed by a charismatic Holocaust survivor, Meyer Maslow. Vincent announces that he wants to make a radical change in his life

Antonio's Gun And Delfino's Dream: True Tales Of Mexican Migration by **Sam Quinones**

NONFICTION

Quinones takes a keen look the migrant economy—both the rural to urban flow within Mexico, and between the U.S. and Mexico—in these nine skillful, moving stories.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place by **Aron Ralston**

MEMOIR

Aron Ralston amputated his own lower right arm with a dull knife in order to free himself after his arm

became trapped by a boulder. This is his searing account of his six days trapped in one of the most remote spots in America, and how one inspired act of bravery brought him home.

***Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* by Luis Rodriguez**

MEMOIR

As a member of various Latino gangs based in and around the South San Gabriel Valley during the late 1960s, Rodriguez participated in random acts of violence, and was imprisoned on several occasions for the crimes he committed.

***Empire Falls* by Richard Russo**

NOVEL

The one (barely) viable business in Empire Falls, Maine, is the diner where Miles Roby has worked for twenty years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self-respect. What keeps him there?

***The Sparrow: a novel* by Mary Doria Russell**

NOVEL

Emilio Sandoz, a brilliant Jesuit priest, seems like the perfect leader for the first expedition to an extraterrestrial culture. However, when Sandoz returns to Earth 20 years later as the mission's sole survivor, he is accused of unspeakable violence and depravity.

***The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger**

NOVEL

Holden Caulfield, knowing he is to be expelled from school, decides to leave early. He spends three days in New York City and tells the story of what he did and suffered there.

***The Lovely Bones: a novel* by Alice Sebold**

NOVEL

This is the tale of family, memory, love, and living told by 14-year-old Susie Salmon, who is already in heaven. Through the voice of a precocious teenage girl, Susie relates the awful events of her death and builds out of her family's grief a hopeful and joyful story.

***Last Exit to Brooklyn* by Hubert Selby**

NOVEL

The first novel to articulate the rage and pain of life in "the other America," *Last Exit to Brooklyn* is a classic of postwar American writing. Selby's searing portrait of the powerless, the homeless, the dispossessed, is a fiercely and frighteningly apposite today as when it was first published in 1964.

***The Reader* by Bernard Schlink**

NOVEL

When he falls ill on his way home from school, fifteen-year-old Michael is rescued by Hanna, a woman twice his age. In time she becomes his lover--then she inexplicably disappears. When Michael next sees her, he is a young law student, and she is on trial for a hideous crime.

***The Bridge of Beyond* by Simone Schwartz-Bart**

NOVEL

Through the life of Telumee Lougandor we meet a proud line of women whose lives are beyond Africa, beyond the slavery that in theory has been abolished, and beyond the physical restrictions of their existence which is eased only by their faith in the spirit world.

***Oral History: a novel* by Lee Smith**

NOVEL

When Jennifer, a college student, returns to her childhood home of Hoot Owl Holler with a tape recorder,

the tales of murder and suicide, incest and blood ties, bring to life a vibrant story of a doomed family that still refuses to give up.

****A Hope in the Unseen: ... from the inner city to the Ivy League* by Ron Suskind** **NONFICTION**

As an honor student at his crime-infested high school in Washington, D.C., Cedric Jennings achieved the impossible: a 4.02 grade-point average and acceptance into Brown University.

***The Pianist: ... One Man's Survival in Warsaw, 1939-45* by Wladislaw Szpilman** **MEMOIR**

A Jewish pianist's real-life account of survival in World War II.

***Saving Fish From Drowning* by Amy Tan** **NOVEL**

American tourists join an art expedition that begins in the Himalayan foothills of China - dubbed the true Shangri-La - and heads south into the jungles of Burma. After the mysterious death of their tour leader, disharmony breaks out among the pleasure-seekers.

***Everything I'm Cracked Up to Be: a Rock and Roll Fairy Tale* by Jen Trynin** **MEMOIR**

Briefly in the mid-nineties, Trynin was, much to her surprise, the subject of a major record-company bidding war. Despite excellent reviews, her debut recording's sales fizzled, and the telephone stopped ringing. Terrific reading for anyone interested in rock and the music industry.

***The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama** **NOVEL**

A 20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis. Here he is cared for by Matsu, a reticent housekeeper and a master gardener.

***Petropolis* by Anya Ulinich** **NOVEL**

Sasha Goldberg is a biracial Russian Jewish girl growing up in the early 1990s in Asbestos 2, a small, remote town in Russia named for its asbestos mine. Sasha is unattractive, unpopular, and a constant disappointment to her class-conscious mother.

***First They Killed My Father: a Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung** **MEMOIR**

When Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into Phnom Penh in April 1975, Ung's family fled their home and moved from village to village to hide their identity, their education, their former life of privilege. Eventually, the family dispersed in order to survive.

***The Hummingbird's Daughter: a novel* by Luis Alberto Urrea** **NOVEL**

Teresita is not an ordinary girl. Born of an illiterate, poor Indian mother, she knows little about her past or her future. She has no idea that her father is Don Tomas Urrea, the wild and rich owner of a vast ranch in the Mexican state of Sinaloa.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker** **NOVEL**

Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate.

NOVEL

***Possessing the Secret of Joy* by Alice Walker**

A provocative novel about an African tribal woman's battle with madness after the trauma of a childhood genital mutilation.

***A Loss for Words: the Story of Deafness in a Family* by Lou Ann Walker**

MEMOIR

Born in the Midwest in 1952, Walker is one of three hearing daughters of Gale and Doris Jean Walker, both deafened as babies by illnesses. As the oldest child, the author served as her parents' "interpreter," dealing with outsiders.

***The Glass Castle: a Memoir* by Jeanette Walls**

MEMOIR

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Jeannette and her siblings had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

***Montana 1948: a novel* by Larry Watson**

NOVEL

The events of that cataclysmic summer permanently alter twelve-year-old David's understanding of his family, as he learns that truth is not what one believes it to be, that power is abused, and that sometimes one has to choose between family loyalty and justice.

***Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan**

NOVEL

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

****Night* by Elie Wiesel**

MEMOIR

A candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of Wiesel's survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. *Night* eloquently addresses many of the questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.

***Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell**

NOVEL

Sixteen-year-old Ree Dolly has a plan. She's going to join the army as soon as she can free herself from her complicated family obligations. When she takes on the Dolly family's deep, cancerous control of the meth network, the eruption of violence nearly costs her everything.

***Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X with Alex Haley**

MEMOIR

Malcolm X's searing memoir recounts his transformation from a bitter, self-destructive petty criminal into an articulate political activist, the continued relevance of his militant analysis of white racism, and his emphasis on self-respect and self-help for African Americans.



Please Note: 1) if you would like to read a biography or autobiography in place of one of these, please see me after class. 2) * means very popular and not too difficult

3/2010