

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ILLINOIS H.S. BOOK AWARD 2007
ANNOTATED MASTER READING LIST

Acceleration -- Graham McNamee

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

Across the Nightingale Floor -- Lian Hearn

16-year-old Takeo is the only survivor when his village is destroyed by an evil warlord. Rescued by Lord Otori, he begins the journey which will change him from an orphan boy into a warrior with extraordinary powers.

All-American Girl -- Meg Cabot

A sophomore girl stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed Teen Ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.

The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents -- Terry Pratchett

A talking cat, intelligent rats, and a strange boy cooperate in a Pied Piper scam until they try to con the wrong town and are confronted by a deadly evil rat king.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place -- Aron Ralston

The extraordinary true story of a young hiker, trapped for 5 days by a rock fall in a Utah canyon, who amputated his own arm with his pocketknife to escape and then walked out to safety.

Blood Red Horse -- K.M. Grant

It takes three things to become a knight: a warhorse, a fair maiden and a just cause. Will has a blood red horse named Hosanna; Ellie is a fair maiden; and King Richard is calling for a Crusade to the Holy Land. Will and his brother Gavin will answer the King's call.

The Burn Journals -- Brent Runyon

Brent Runyon was fourteen years old when he set himself on fire. In this book he describes that suicide attempt and his recovery over the following year.

Darkly Dreaming Dexter -- Jeff Lindsay

Dexter, a blood-spatter expert who works for the police, tries to help his adopted sister, a police officer, catch a vicious serial killer. That should be useful, since Dexter himself is also a serial killer (but not the serial killer his sister is trying to catch.)

Donorboy -- Brendan Halpin

Orphaned when her two moms die in a car accident, 14-year-old Ros suddenly finds herself living with her clueless biological father, whose only role in her life till now has been as a sperm donor for her mother.

Fleshmarket -- Nicola Morgan

In 19th-century Scotland, surgery is agonizing and gruesome. When Robbie's mother dies during an operation at the hands of Dr. Robert Knox, the boy's search for revenge leads him into illegal dealings with the men who provide Knox with dead bodies for his medical research.

Godless -- Pete Hautman

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

A Great and Terrible Beauty -- Libba Bray

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Guts: the True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books -- Gary Paulsen

The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

High Heat -- Carl Deuker

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.

A Hole in My Life -- Jack Gantos

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.

Jude -- Kate Morgenroth

Still reeling from his drug-dealing father's murder, moving in with the wealthy mother he never knew, and transferring to a private school, fifteen-year-old Jude is tricked into pleading guilty to a crime he did not commit.

Redemption -- Julie Chibbaro

Chronicles the arduous journey of a twelve-year-old English girl and her mother as they flee with other religious protesters to the New World in the early 1500's, and the heartbreak and hope they find when they arrive.

Shattering Glass -- Gail Giles

When Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, turns the school nerd into Prince Charming, his actions lead to unexpected violence.

Sickened -- Julie Gregory

During Gregory's childhood, her abusive mother used a combination of malnutrition, overwork, and prescription drugs to keep the girl in a perpetual state of ill health, resulting in an endless round of visits to doctors. Not until the young woman moved away from her isolated family home and attended college was she able to see what her mother had done to her.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants -- Ann Brashares

Four best girlfriends, about to spend their first summer apart, keep in touch via a magical pair of thrift-store jeans which each one wears, then sends on to another.

Uglies -- Scott Westerfeld

Tally lives in a futuristic society whose citizens believe that they are ugly until age 16 when an operation changes them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Tally can't wait for her surgery, but then she meets Shay, who scorns their society's shallowness and urges Tally to defect with her to a distant settlement of simple-living conscientious objectors.

Who Am I Without Him?: Short Stories About Girls and the Boys in Their Lives -- Sharon G. Flake

10 stories with the universal theme of boy/girl relationships. Some are funny and uplifting, others are disturbing and sad. Two of the stories are told from a boy's point of view