

Springfield Public Schools
10th Grade Summer Reading List
2019

Catching Fire (Book 2 of The Hunger Games Trilogy) by Suzanne Collins

After the events of The Hunger Games, Katniss finds herself back in the Capitol fighting for her life and for the salvation of District 12. (Also available by Suzanne Collins, Mockingjay, Book 3 of The Hunger Games Trilogy)

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

Set in New York City during the beginning of the American Revolution, Chains is an historical novel that addresses the real price of freedom. Isabel tells the story of her life as a slave girl sold to a cruel Loyalist family and then recruited to spy for the Patriots. She is forced to question whether a new nation's freedom will include her and the many more like her bound in chains.

Early Autumn by Robert Parker

Stuck in the middle of a bitter divorce, a 15 year-old boy is kidnapped by people his parents hired. Taking pity on him, Spenser goes from a hired kidnapper to a teacher deep in the Maine woods. He is determined to help the boy and beat his opponents in a dangerous game of kidnapping.

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl by Joyce Carol Oates

While horsing around in the cafeteria, Matt Donaghy makes some remarks and he's suspected of plotting to bomb the school. Only Ursula Riggs, a girl he barely knows, is willing to speak up on Matt's behalf-and that's just the beginning of Oates's novel. The next three-quarters of the book become even more interesting, as the author explores the subsequent social pressures placed on the teenagers.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

In this memoir, the author recalls her turbulent childhood with an eccentric mother and alcoholic father. The story, told without self-pity or blame, is an inspiring testament to the strength of family bonds.

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos

Jack Gantos was living by himself as a high school senior because his parents left him to his own devices. An aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job, he naively agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with drugs from the Virgin Islands to New York City where he and his partners sold them until federal agents caught up. For his part in the conspiracy, Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in prison. This autobiography charts his path before, during and after prison.

Jerk, California by Jonathan Friesen

In this novel, high school senior Sam Carrier searches for the truth about his life. Rejected by his stepfather after being diagnosed with Tourette's as a child, Sam has endured poor treatment at home, and school has been even worse. His best – and only – release from his body's constant twitching, jerking movement is in running. This semi-autobiographical novel follows Sam through struggles for understanding and self-acceptance.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Told from the point of view of Death himself, this fast-paced novel follows a young German girl, Liesl, and her Jewish best friend, Rudy, who face the dangers of growing up in a small town in Germany during WWII.

Paper Towns by John Green

When his next-door neighbor and crush Margo shows up at Quentin's window dressed as a ninja, "good kid" Quentin is not prepared for their night of chaos. The next morning, Margo has disappeared. She leaves Quentin clues that lead him on a hilarious chase across the country.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Do opposites attract? This novel follows the courtship of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy through a relationship that begins with hatred for the other but gradually turns into attraction, respect, and love. This family drama includes unexpected plot twists and unforgettable romance.

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Most of us, at some point in our education, have a teacher who impacts the way we think and live our lives. In this memoir, Mitch Albom spends several months visiting his college professor, Morrie Schwartz, during Morrie's final year of life and learning from him some of life's most important lessons. (Other recent titles by Mitch Albom are *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Have a Little Faith*)

The White Darkness by Geraldine McCaughrean

Accompanied by Titus Oates, an explorer who's been dead for ninety-years, Sym travels with her Uncle Victor to Antarctica in a search for truth that leaves her struggling for survival.