

Springfield Public Schools
11th Grade Summer Reading List
2019

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard This memoir from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard recounts the experiences of her childhood growing up in Pittsburgh during the 1950s. Dillard effortlessly takes on the persona of her five-, ten-, and fifteen-year-old selves while describing through vivid detail the events and lessons that influenced her decision to become a writer.

Sailing Alone Around the Room by Billy Collins

This collection of new and older poems shows Collins at his best, performing the kinds of distinctive poetic maneuvers that have delighted and fascinated so many readers. They may begin in curiosity and end in grief; they may start with irony and end with lyric transformation; they may, and often do, begin with the everyday and end in the infinite. Possessed of a unique voice that is at once plain and melodic, Billy Collins has managed to enrich American poetry while greatly widening the circle of its audience.

On the Road by Jack Kerouac

(Be advised that this book contains mature content and language.)

For those who enjoy the stream of consciousness style of J.D. Salinger, Lowell native Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* chronicles the rebellious antics of the Beat generation. This semi-autobiographic novel follows protagonist Dean Moriarty as he hitchhikes his way across the country and uncovers the freedom of the open road.

Lucky by Alice Sebold *(Be advised that this book contains mature content and language.)*

Raped while walking home through a park near her university, Alice Sebold narrates her painful and heroic attempt to readjust to college and family life. Her path of healing is disrupted when she spots her attacker on the street and begins the long, arduous task of prosecuting him.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner Thomas senses that he holds the knowledge to lead his fellow Gladers out of a maze that surrounds their safe haven. But with no memory of their past lives, escape might lead Thomas and the other Gladers into worse situations.

A Secret Edge by Robin Reardon Reardon's third novel is a coming-of-age story about athletic and popular Jason Peele, a high school track star who begins to explore and confront his homosexuality. This is a compelling story about stereotypes, interracial relationships, love, betrayal, and friendship.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach This is a non-fiction account of what happens to dead bodies. Despite the morbid subject matter, this book is guaranteed to make you laugh. Roach uses sharp wit, sensitivity and respect to demonstrate the remarkable and not-so-remarkable, sometimes questionable, uses of cadavers. For those who are interested in the fields of medicine or forensics, this book makes excellent reading.

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson In order to rediscover his country by "going out into an America that most people scarcely know is there," the unprepared and out-of-shape author sets out to walk the length of the Appalachian Trail. He is armed with nothing but Snickers Bars and Ramen Noodles, and accompanied by a college roommate he has not seen in years. His account of that adventure is at once hilarious, inspiring, and educational.