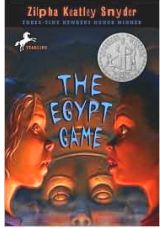


Book Picks for Juniors & Young Adults

Tracy's Picks: Ages 8-12



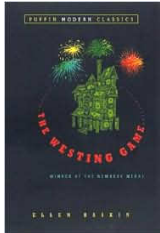
THE EGYPT GAME Zilpha Keatley Snyder

In this Newbery-winning book, a group of kids begin the Egypt Game. They meet in a deserted storage yard to hold secret ceremonies and create their own Egyptian world. Everyone thinks it is just a game until strange *real* things begin to happen. This was one of my favorite books when I was in middle school. I was so fascinated by the game and the characters' imaginations that I even started my own Egypt club. **J SNYD**



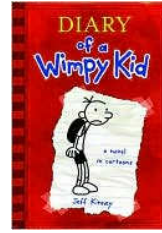
A CROOKED KIND OF PERFECT Linda Urban

Zoe Elias longs for a baby grand piano like the one her ex-best friend gets for her birthday. Instead, Zoe gets "revolutionary" lessons playing a *paper* keyboard at the senior center and a Perfectone D-60. Meanwhile, Zoe's father takes mail-order classes in their living room because he is too nervous to leave the house and her mother is always working. This is a funny, upbeat story about a girl, her dream, and a very wacky family. **J URBA**



THE WESTING GAME Ellen Raskin

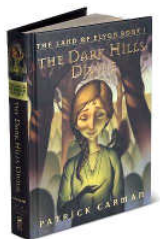
The game of "Who Killed Sam Westing" is on when sixteen heirs are summoned to the Westing mansion for the reading of a reclusive millionaire's will. All of the heirs are suspects in the murder, and Westing's millions will go to whichever heir solves the case. The heirs/suspects deal with confusing clues, snowstorms, power failures, and bomb explosions in their quest to solve the puzzle and win the game. **J RASK**



DIARY OF A WIMPY KID Jeff Kinney

This is a funny book and a solid choice for reluctant readers. Greg is a middle schooler who encounters all the woes of the stereotypical boy. This includes a pain-in-the-neck older brother, a best friend whose less-than-cool behavior jeopardizes his own social standing, and the required school bullies. The cartoon drawings throughout the journal (Greg refuses to call it a diary!) add to the hilarity. **CD J BOOK KINN**

Jada Recommends:



THE LAND OF ELYON SERIES By Patrick Carman

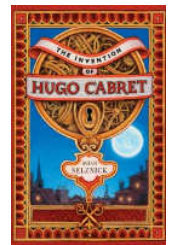
Book 1: The Dark Hills Divide
Book 2: Beyond the Valley of the Thorns
Book 3: The Tenth City

Inquisitive twelve-year-old Alexa Daley yearns to know what lies beyond the walls of the kingdom of Elyon. Legend says a mysterious evil lurks in the forests outside, but Alexa is determined to find out for herself. What she discovers is an enchanted land that proves more threatening than she ever imagined! **J CARM**

Pam Recommends:

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET by Brian Selznick

This book won the 2007 Caldecott Medal, but it is definitely not your ordinary picture book. It's the story of twelve-year-old orphan Hugo, who is secretly living within the walls of a Paris train station. But Hugo's secret is threatened when he meets an unusual toyseller and his goddaughter. Amazing illustrations throughout the narrative truly add to the story and make *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* a one-of-a-kind reading experience. **J SELZ or CD J BOOK SELZ**



Tracy's Picks: Younger Teens



THE THIRD EYE— Lois Duncan

I used to love, love, love this book. Probably because I was completely fascinated by the idea of psychic crime detectives long before shows like *Medium* were common on TV. Anyway, in *The Third Eye*, high

school senior Karen Connors has always known she is different. Sometimes she just “senses” things, but when a young boy disappears while she is babysitting Karen has visions that help the police find him. Afterwards, she is thrown by the reactions of her friends, family, and neighbors and wants to deny the “gift” she has discovered. But

when a young police detective asks for her help to find other missing children, Karen feels she has no other choice...

J DUNC



Author Spotlight:

Patricia Reilly Giff

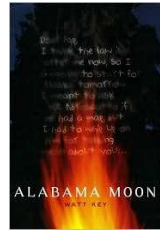
Patricia Reilly Giff creates wonderful stories with a historical backdrop. Her books are generally recommended for readers ages 9–14. She is also the author of the Kids at Polk Street School series, recommended for ages 8–10. For more on her books (including resources for teachers!), visit her Web site at www.randomhouse.com/features/patriciareillygiff.

Books recommended by Judy Wells



A HOUSE OF TAILORS

Thirteen-year-old Dina is not happy about leaving her family’s dressmaking business in Germany to live with her uncle in America. It’s 1870, and she faces several trials in Brooklyn—epidemic, fire, and, of course, homesickness. But, through her love of sewing and a friendship with a young man at the tailor’s shop, she begins to feel at home. **J GIFF**



ALABAMA MOON— Watt Key

In this southern adventure tale, author Watt Key introduces an unforgettable young hero by the name of Moon Blake. Moon lives in almost total isolation with his survivalist father “Pap,” an antigovernment war vet, deep in the Alabama woods. After Pap’s death from gangrene, newly orphaned Moon wants only to follow his father’s advice and go to Alaska where “there are more people like us.” Instead, he finds himself challenged by the authorities, including a bumbling and corrupt constable determined to exact revenge on Moon for defying him. As he makes friends for the first time in his life and learns more about the outside world, Moon must reevaluate his father’s way of life. This makes a wonderful read for younger teens and is appropriate for advanced readers ages ten and up. Boys and girls with an interest in the outdoors will love it. **J KEY**



NORY RYAN'S SONG

When the potato crop fails in Ireland in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan must find a way to get food and keep her family from starving. Through her bravery, inventiveness, and determination, Nory manages to give hope to her family and neighbors. **J GIFF, CAS J GIFF & CD J GIFF**

MAGGIE'S DOOR

In this sequel to the beloved *Nory Ryan's Song*, Nory and her friend Sean Mallon leave famine-plagued Ireland for America, where Nory’s sister Maggie lives in Brooklyn. **J GIFF, CAS J GIFF & CD J GIFF**

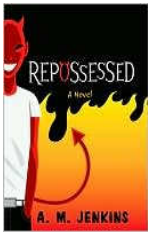


LILY'S CROSSING

During the summer of 1944, in the midst of World War II, Lily’s annual visit to her family’s summer house leads her to look at the world in a new way. She meets a Hungarian refugee named Albert and the secrets they share will shape their lives forever. **J GIFF, CAS J GIFF & CD J GIFF**



Tracy's Picks: Older Teens



REPOSSESSED
A.M. Jenkins

Kiriël is a demon (or Fallen One) who has spent eternity watching over souls in Hell, and he's tired of it. It's time for a vacation! So he decides to take over the body of Shaun, a typical teenager, just as

Shaun is about to get creamed by a cement truck. In his new form, Kiriël becomes fascinated with mundane things like seeing, breathing, and talking, and he is determined to fully experience these new human sensations before he gets dragged back to his boring job in Hell. So he revels in ordinary things we take for granted—from the vibrancy of color to the “divine” taste of ketchup. Kiriël also finds himself puzzled by human relationships and must interact with Shaun's best friend and troubled little brother. Determined to leave his mark on the world before time runs out, Kiriël surprises himself by taking on the school bully and tries to start a romance (not that *romance* is his goal... he is a demon after all!) with the unpopular girl who has a secret crush on Shaun. This book is guaranteed to make you rethink the world around you and, if you are anything like me, Kiriël's adventures and unusual viewpoint will keep you chuckling. **On Order**



THE FLOOR OF THE SKY
Pamela Carter Joern

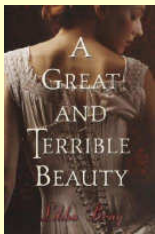
Lila is sixteen and pregnant when she is shuffled off to spend the summer in a podunk Nebraska town with her grandmother Toby, who is little more than a stranger to her. Meanwhile, Toby is struggling to save the family ranch and coping with her perpetually cranky sister Gertie. This book is a wonderful, quick read about family secrets, loyalty, and self-discovery. Although it was marketed for adult readers, it is a great book for teens. **FIC JOER**



THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME
Mark Haddon

I already recommended this book on my adult reading list, but I suspect teens will love it as well. In this simple yet extraordinary story a 15-year-old autistic boy investigates the death of a neighbor's dog and uncovers shocking secrets about his own family. *Curious Incident* is heartbreaking, funny, and remarkably written to convey the workings of an autistic mind. **FIC HADD**

THE GEMMA DOYLE TRILOGY



BOOK 1: A GREAT AND TERRIBLE BEAUTY
FIC BRAY

A Great and Terrible Beauty is the first book in Libba Bray's bestselling Gemma Doyle trilogy. At the book's opening, it is Gemma's sixteenth birthday and she is squabbling with her mother in a marketplace in 1895 Bombay. Things take a dramatic turn, though, when an angry Gemma takes off on her own. In the middle of the square, she is suddenly assaulted with a terrifying vision of her mother's death at the hands of a mysterious dark creature. Minutes later, Gemma finds her mother dead.

Gemma's visions continue after she is sent to Spence, an all-girls school outside London with a strong gothic atmosphere. There she discovers the existence of secret societies called the Order and the Rakshana—and learns that she holds the power to enter a magical place called the Realms. But what is truly remarkable about this book is how layered it is. It doesn't become overly bogged down with the

magical elements, but instead emerges as a novel full of richly developed characters and complexities.

And as the series continues, the books become increasingly addictive. Gemma and her friends delve deeper into the mysteries of the Order and the Realms, discovering dark secrets and facing life-threatening challenges. New characters—a mysterious new teacher at Spence, a young London gentleman after Gemma's heart, a strange young inmate at Bedlam who appears to hold the secrets of the Realms—emerge. The series is fascinating as it explores three worlds—the mysteries of Spence, the Realms, and late 19th century London—yet somehow maintains a completely modern sensibility, introducing current hot-button issues like drug addiction, self-mutilation, child molestation, and much more.



BOOK 2: REBEL ANGELS
J BRAY

BOOK 3: THE SWEET FAR THING
J BRAY

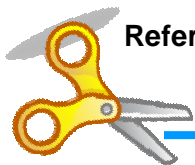


Final Thoughts From Tracy:

- I hope you found something (or several somethings) on this list to spark your interest! Some of the selected books are old favorites of mine that I believe still make great reads today, while others are some of today's most popular titles.
- If you've read a great book that others should know about, help spread the word! E-mail me at reference@bcplib.org. Your suggestion just might show up on my next list!
- Please take the Reader Survey below. Your answers might appear in my next Book Picks list. (And if you are interested in *my* answers, they are in the right column!) You can turn in your completed survey at any Bullitt County library branch, or you can e-mail your answers to the address below. Thanks!

Tracy Weikel

Reference & Reader Advisory Services
reference@bcplib.org



Want to find more great books? There are some great Web sites that can help. Some of my favorite sites for junior and young adult books are listed below.

Reading Rants!

Read the interactive blog and book reviews, or get booklists for "out of the ordinary books for teens." www.readingrants.org

Bookshelves of Doom

Check out this witty blog that features book reviews, book news, and pop culture snark. www.blogs.bookshelvesofdoom.com

Guys Read

Guys may want to investigate Jon Scieszka's site where guys of all ages can find books to interest them. www.guysread.com

Teen Reads

Don't miss this site, which features stories on favorite authors and series, a round-up of new releases and film adaptations, and hundreds of book reviews. www.teenreads.com

Bookwink

Find recommended books by subject, author, or grade level. Or view podcast reviews of featured titles! www.bookwink.com

Book Picks Reader Survey

1. What book is on your nightstand now?

1. *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer is at the top of my TBR (To Be Read) pile. I know... I'm WAY behind the rest of you.

2. What book do you tell everyone to read?

2. *Emma* by Jane Austen. It's just so fun to laugh at Emma, her foiled plots, and her self-deluded thinking!

3. What book did you fake reading?

3. Two come to mind. First is *Dombey and Son* by Charles Dickens. It's over 800 pages and was assigned reading for a college English lit course titled "The Rise of Sentiment." Enough said. Second is *Native Son* by Richard Wright. I pretty much skimmed my way through the book in high school, but I *really* read it years later and loved it! Maybe I should give Mr. Dickens another shot. Or not.

Your Name: _____

Your Age: _____