**Uglies** by Scott Westerfield
Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." When Tally's dissident friend Shay disappears, Tally is recruited to find her and instead becomes increasingly critical of the dystopian values and ideals that at the same time she craves.

**Everybody Sees the Ants** by A. S. King
Lucky Linderman has a dysfunctional life. His family deals with an old tragedy, while he faces a bully, meets a girl, and tries to bring his POW/MIA grandfather home from Laos. It's in his elaborate dream world that Lucky tries to resolve his real-world problems.

**SideScrollers** by Matthew Loux
A trio of low-achieving, video-game playing buddies work to save another friend from a bully. The dialogue is witty and funny, and the storyline is meaningful and interesting.

**Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything** by Joshua Foer
The author draws on cutting-edge research, a surprising cultural history of remembering, and venerable tricks of the mentalist's trade to transform our understanding of human memory. From the United States Memory Championship to deep within the author's own mind, this is an electrifying work of journalism that reminds us that, in every way that matters, we are the sum of our memories.

**All Creatures Great and Small** by James Herriot
Dr. Herriot, a well-known veterinarian, writes with humor and knowledge about his animal clients. There are many animal stories (and human stories, as well) as he recounts the years he spent in England as a vet.
Curious Incident of the Dog at Nighttime by Mark Haddon

Fifteen-year-old Christopher John Francis Boone is mathematically gifted and socially hopeless. When Christopher is accused of killing a neighbor’s dog, he sets about discovering the true murderer and recording his findings.
Furies of Calderon (Codex Alera, Book 1) by Jim Butcher
For a thousand years, the people of Alera have united against the aggressive and threatening races that inhabit the world, using their unique bond with the furies - elementals of earth, air, fire, water, and metal. But now, Gaius Sextus, First Lord of Alera, grows old and lacks an heir and a war of succession looms on the horizon. Meanwhile a village boy named Tavi saves the life of a runaway slave named Amara, who’s veiled past drags Tavi into a quest for justice and peace.

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult
Quiet Sterling, New Hampshire is shattered by an act of violence at the high school and Josie Cormier, the daughter of the judge sitting on the case, should be the state's best witness, but she can't remember what happened before her very own eyes--or can she?

Internet Blackout by Marcello Marques
Yago uses his computer skills to earn extra cash and support his family. But his life takes a turn to adventure when his teacher, the greatest hacker in the country, is accused of a crime he didn't commit-and an innocent girl is blackmailed. This graphic novel is volume 1 of the Hackerteen series.

Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of 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. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, Brown v. Board of Education, Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob’s rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.
Amazonia by James Rollins
The Rand scientific expedition entered the lush wilderness of the Amazon and never returned. Years later, one of its members who went in with one arm missing has stumbled out of the world’s most inhospitable rainforest with two arms intact. Baffled, the government sends scientist and naturalist Nathan Rand into the jungle to follow the trail of his vanished father toward amazing natural mysteries that defy all that scientists know.

Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
Read this deeply moving story of Zulu Pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set against the backdrop of a land and people driven by racial inequality and injustice.

Choose any other age and level-appropriate book to read, if you want. Ask a friend, a librarian, a parent or a teacher about his/her favorite books. Or check out the ALA website for the best books of 2012 (www.ala.org/yalsa).
Science Fiction/Fantasy

**Cell** by Stephen King
Mobile phones deliver the apocalypse to millions of unsuspecting humans by wiping their brains of any humanity, leaving only aggressive and destructive impulses behind; tech-induced zombies. Those without cell phones, like illustrator Clayton Riddell and his small band of "normies," must fight for survival as they journey from Boston to Kent Pond, Maine to find Clayton's family.

**Stitches: A Memoir** by David Small
The youngest member of a silent and unhappy family, David is subjected to repeated x-rays to monitor sinus problems. When he develops cancer as a result of this procedure, he is operated on without being told what is wrong with him. The operation results in the loss of his voice, cutting him off even further from the world around him. This sensitive, insightful memoir recounts his experiences from age six into adulthood.

Non-Fiction

**Where Men Win Glory: The Pat Tillman Story** by Jon Krakauer
Pat Tillman walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to join the Army after September 11. When he was killed in Afghanistan two years later, a legend was born. But the real Pat Tillman was much more remarkable, and considerably more complicated than the public knew. This memoir is more than a biography; it is a look at war and the war machine.

Mystery/Thriller

**Origin: A Novel** by Diana Abu-Saber
Lena is a fingerprint expert at a crime lab in the small city of Syracuse, New York, where winters are cold and deep. Orphaned as a child, out of place as an adult, gifted with delicate and terrifying powers of intuition, Lena finds herself playing a critical role in a case involving a series of crib deaths that draws the attention of the police and the national media and raises the possibility of the inconceivable: could there be a serial infant murderer on the loose? But then there is also the mystery of her own childhood to solve....Could the improbable deaths of a half-dozen babies be somehow connected to her own improbable survival?
Big Mouth & Ugly Girl by Joyce Carol Oates
When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid: Ursula Riggs, self-proclaimed Ugly Girl. This coming-of-age novel explores the culture of high school, the psychology of mob mentality and public paranoia, and the nature of friendship.

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Anti-hero Captain John Yossarian, stationed at an airstrip on a Mediterranean island in World War II, wants out of the military and desperately attempts to stay alive while he figures out an escape. The "catch" in Catch-22 involves a mysterious Air Force regulation that is utterly ridiculous and utterly inescapable.

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12th Grade

**Science Fiction/Fantasy**

*11-22-63* by Stephen King

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and the world changed. What if you could change it back? This novel explores the idea of revisionist history—what if...? It is about a man, Jake Epping, who travels back in time to prevent the JFK assassination—and what consequences ensue.

**Non-Fiction**

*Me Talk Pretty One Day* by Dave Sedaris

Sedaris shares hilarious, satirical stories of his dysfunctional family, his French lessons, and his bizarre career path.

**Popular**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

Mariam, 15, marries the 40-year-old Rasheed, who abuses her for years. Eighteen years later, Rasheed takes another wife, 14-year-old Laila, a smart and spirited girl. Mariam and Laila become allies in a battle with the misogynistic Rasheed.

**Graphic Novel**

*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi

Marji tells of her life in Iran from the age of 10, when the Islamic revolution of 1979 reintroduced a religious state, through the age of 14 when the Iran-Iraq war forced her parents to send her to Europe for safety. This story, told in graphic format with simple, but expressive, black-and-white illustrations, combines the normal rebelliousness of an intelligent adolescent with the horrors of war and totalitarianism.

**Mystery/Thriller**

*The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown

The author of *The DaVinci Code* proposes and explores yet another national conspiracy rooted in history, freemasonry, and politics. The forefathers of our nation may have left behind clues in Washington, D.C. that will lead Robert Langdon, Harvard symbologist, to uncover a long-hidden secret about the forming of our country.
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
John’s best friend is a diminutive boy with a GIGANTIC VOICE named Owen, who believes he knows his future. As the boys grow up, Owen’s faith strengthens even as John doubts his friend and his own faith. A series of miracles is needed. Could his future involve John, penguins, armadillos, a baseball, an amazing basketball trick, a manikin, and the Vietnam War?

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