

Suggested Summer Reading for Students Entering 9th Grade Saint Ann's School 2010

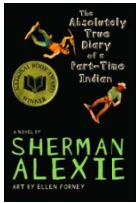


Fiction

Alexie, Sherman

The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian

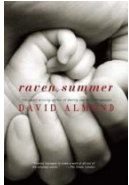
Arnold Spirit, also known as Junior, lives on a reservation in Wellpinit, Washington. He is dorky, smart, a target for bullies, and luckily has some skill in basketball. He also has a desire to do something different with his life—to ultimately get off the reservation. The only way he can see to accomplish this goal is to go to the white school in Reardan, a town 22 miles away. This is the story of his freshman year in high school—and what a year it was!



Almond, David

Raven Summer

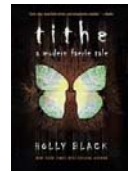
Set in the stark landscape of Britain's Northumbrian coast, this is a hauntingly complex story that deals with the age old question of whether a person can be born evil or not. While out with his friend Max, Liam is led by a raven to an abandoned baby. When he and his parents visit the baby in its foster home, Liam makes friends with two of the foster kids: Oliver, a Liberian refugee, and Crystal a spunky girl.



Black, Holly

Tithe : A Modern Faerie Tale

This complex story is hard to describe so let's just say it is about a teenager named Kaye, who isn't actually human (she's a faerie!) who moves back to the Jersey shore where she reconnects with old friends. She ends up getting in the middle of an otherworldly war between two faerie kingdoms.



Booth, Coe

Tyrell

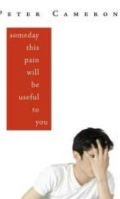
Fifteen-year-old Tyrell lives in a shelter in the Bronx after his dad is sent to prison. He's got a lot on his mind—like keeping his younger brother in school, getting out of the roach-infested shelter, navigating between his girlfriend Novisha and Jasmine at the shelter, and resisting the money-making allure of selling drugs.

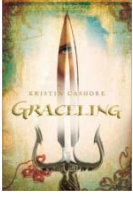


Cameron, Peter

Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You

James is the consummate New Yorker—he is observant, his wit is acerbic, he is precocious. At 18, he has finished high school, he's working at his mother's gallery in SoHo for the summer and he's supposedly going to Brown in the fall. The only caveat is this; he doesn't want to go to Brown because he doesn't really like hanging out with people his own age, a situation that will undoubtedly occur day after day during his four years of college.

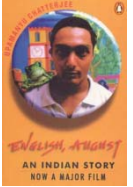




Cashore, Kristen

Graceling

Only certain people are born with a "grace." Those with graces, special skills in anything from swimming to fighting, can be identified by their different colored eyes. Katsa was born with a killing grace and her uncle, King Randa, makes her use it to his political advantage, forcing her to strong-arm lords who owe him money or other townspeople who he thinks have cheated him. When Kate defies her uncle, she learns the truth about her grace.



Chatterjee, Upamanyu

English, August: An Indian Story

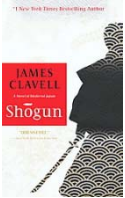
Published in 1988, this best-selling, coming-of-age novel chronicles the life of an independently wealthy slacker, Agastya Senwho, nicknamed August, who has just started his post with the prestigious Indian Administration Service. He finds himself in a remote town, virtually a stranger in his own country—nervous about cholera and malaria and completely lacking in ambition. Will August grow up and become a useful citizen?



Chbosky, Stephen

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Charlie is a freshman in high school and writes letters to an unnamed person, chronicling his entire year. Charlie is clearly very intelligent (his English teacher even gives him extra work), but he is a "wallflower." This means he is more of an astute observer of life rather than a participator. He grows up a lot over the year—he makes a lot of friends, strengthens his relationships with his family, and learns a few pivotal hidden things about his past in the process.



Clavell, James

Shogun

Are you ready for this? An adventurous Englishman, a powerful Japanese warlord, and a beautiful woman come together in an exciting saga of medieval Japan. This epic classic should not be missed.



Cooper, Michelle

A Brief History of Montmaray

Living in a rotting castle on an island in the Bay of Biscay in England, 16-year-old Sophie spends her time doing housework and writing in her journal. It's 1936 and the Nazis have just invaded their island. This novel has it all: espionage, murder, romance, royalty, skullduggery, betrayal and more.



Crowley, Suzanne

The Stolen One

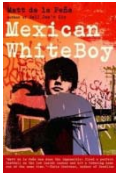
Romantic and suspenseful, this novel is set in Tudor, England. Sixteen-year-old Kat is an orphaned country girl. After her caregiver dies, she discovers a royal necklace which raises a host of questions that lead her to London in search of information about her parents. After Kat becomes a servant for Queen Elizabeth I, rumors begin to fly that she's actually the Queen's daughter! Is she?



Davis, Tanita

Mare's War

Teenaged sisters Octavia and Tali, take a cross-country road trip to a family reunion with their erratic grandmother, Mare. Nerves are rattled and a truce is made: Mare won't smoke cigarettes if the girls won't use head-phones. Mare begins telling them the story of her life: gritty details of her childhood and joining the women's army during World War II. Told in alternating chapters of "then" and "now" this is an intriguing, realistic story you won't want to miss.



De La Pena, Matt

Mexican White Boy

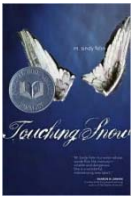
Being half Mexican and half white in an all-white private school isn't easy for Danny Lopez. Life gets even more confusing when his father runs off to Mexico while his mom sends him to live with his extended family.



Doctorow, Cory

Little Brother

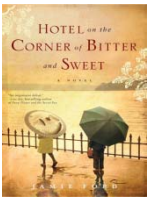
After a terrorist attack on San Francisco, 17-year-old computer-savvy Marcus, a.k.a "w1n5t0n," and his crew find themselves in a whole heap of trouble. The Department of Homeland Security detains them and interrogates them for days. When they are released, they discover that the city has become a police state. It's time to take care of things themselves. Scott Westerfeld and Neil Gaiman raved about this book.



Felin, Sindy M.

Touching Snow

Thirteen-year-old Katu's home life isn't easy. Her family has recently emigrated from Haiti and her parents work exceptionally long hours while imposing very strict rules for their children. The man she calls "Daddy" physically and emotionally abuses the kids yet their mom looks the other way.



Ford, Jamie

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Chinese-American Henry Lee and Japanese-American Keiko are the only Asians in their all-white prep-school in Seattle. Their friendship deepens but the problem is that it's the 1940's, and Japanese-Americans are scorned. Keiko and her family are forced to leave their home and move to an internment camp in Idaho. Henry vows to wait for Keiko. This is a bittersweet story of friendship, hope and reflection.



Goldman, Steven

Two Parties, One Tux, and a Very Short Film about The Grapes Of Wrath

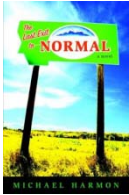
This laugh-out-loud novel's main character, Mitchell, is trying to get a hold on his identity while his younger sister insists on taking charge of his barely existent social life, his best friend announces he's gay, and he manages to create a somewhat risque claymation short in place of a research paper.



Green, John and David Levithan

Will Grayson, Will Grayson

Tiny Cooper and Will Grayson have been best friends since the 5th grade. Convinced that Will should experience some romance in his life, Tiny embarks on a match-making project and digs up another teen named Will Grayson. Laugh-out-loud hi-jinks ensue.



Harmon, Michael

The Last Exit to Normal

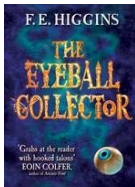
Seventeen-year-old Ben is all about skating boarding, smoking pot and hanging out with his buddies. When his Dad threatens to uproot the family and move to the-middle-of-nowhere in Montana if he screws up again, he doesn't take him too seriously. Unfortunately, he lands in trouble and he, his Dad and his dad's boyfriend, Edward, move to *very* conservative small town, where it's unlikely that being gay or riding a skateboard are considered normal.



Hidier, Tanuja Desai

Born Confused

Dimple is a New Jersey teen caught between the two disparate cultural worlds of India and America. Too American for India and too Indian for America, she is struggling to figure it all out. Throw in a blond, blue-eyed best friend, dating, and a supposedly suitable Indian boy, and you get a great story.



Higgins, F.E.

The Eyeball Collector

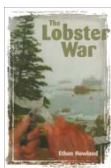
A creepy tale, set in an alternate universe, of an orphan who must contend with a dastardly villain, a cold noble named Lady Mandible, puzzling riddles, murderous schemes and leeches. Don't miss the horror.



Hostetter, Joyce Moyer

Comfort

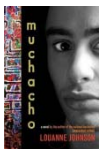
World War II is raging on and North Carolinian teen, Ann Fay, has a tough life. She's recovering from polio and her dad has returned from combat a changed man.



Howland, Ethan

The Lobster War

Dain Harrington is determined to become a lobsterman like his father, despite his fear of the open seas, his mother's and older brother's protests, and the sabotage of his lobster traps.



Johnson, Louanne

Muchacho

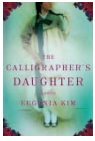
Mexican-American teenager, Eddie Corazon lives in a crime-ridden, drug-infested neighborhood in New Mexico. After meeting pretty Lupe, he finds himself torn between two very different paths.



Katcher, Brian

Almost Perfect

Heartbroken after a break-up, Logan finds himself intrigued by a new student, Sage. When Logan learns of Sage's male-to-female (MTF) gender identity, he's not sure if he's strong enough to deal with it.



Kim, Eugenia

The Calligrapher's Daughter

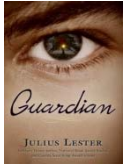
In 1910 Gaesong, Korea, the heroine, Najin is born into a Confucian-Christian household. Expect arranged trials and tribulations: marriages, Japanese occupation, religious upheaval, philosophical musings, poverty, hope and dreams.



Kluger, Steven

My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park

An enthralling comedy of sorts: this story involves political organizing, baseball, musical theater, love and friendship! Read it: you won't be disappointed.



Lester, Julius

The Guardian

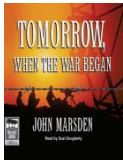
Set in a southern town filled with racism, segregation and sharecropping in 1946, this is the story about the death of a friendship.



Mahy, Margerat

The Magician of Hoad

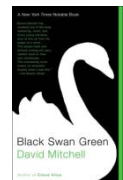
Heriot Tarbas has a special gift: he can read minds. The King of Hoad takes Heriot out of his home on a farm and installs him in his royal court where he is expected to listen to the thoughts of the King's friends and foes.



Marsden, John

Tomorrow, When the War Began

A group of Australian teens return from a camping trip to discover chaos has broken out. Their homes have been torched or deserted, their families imprisoned, and their country taken over by a foreign military. Quickly, they decide to go into hiding where they will make plans to wage guerilla warfare against the enemies. Will they be discovered? Will they survive?



Mitchell,

Black Swan Green

This is not your typical coming-of-age story. Thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor lives in a small village in England. He speaks in charming Gloucestershire slang. It's 1982. Social hierarchy is baffling, his stammer embarrassing, and his parents' marriage seems to be falling apart.



Napoli, Donna Jo

Alligator Bayou

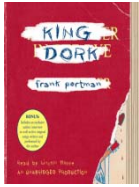
After his mother's death, Calogero, a 14-year-old from Sicily immigrates to a tiny town in Louisiana to join his male relatives. The year is 1899 and the Italians face harsh discrimination from both the white and black community. What happens when Calogero develops a crush on African-American Patricia?



Ness, Patrick

The Knife of Never Letting Go

Poor Todd Hewitt has to flee his settlement in haste after a wacko preacher chases him out. All of the women on his planet have been killed and the men have been infected with a sickness that broadcasts all of their thoughts. Expect suspense and tension in this dystopian nightmare of a story.
Portman, Frank



King Dork

Hilarious. Tom, aka King Dork, is a witty, sarcastic high school sophomore with a great vocabulary. Tom and his one friend, Sam Hellerman, form a band. Half the fun of having a band is naming it, and Tom and Sam think up some cool names like Baby Batter, Occult Blood, The Mordar Apes, Balls Deep, and The Chi-Mos, to name but a few. The novel revolves around the band, Tom's dismal existence in high school reading *The Catcher in the Rye* for the hundredth time, solving the mystery of his dad's death, and lusting after various girls.



Potok, Chaim

My Name is Asher Lev

Asher Lev is an Orthodox Jewish boy who struggles to pursue a career in art despite his family's firm objections to the idea.



Schmidt, Gary

Trouble

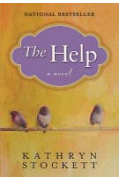
Prep-School student Henry embarks on a trek of Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. In a twist of fate, they end up with an unexpected companion.



Smith, Sherri

Flygirl

Ida Mae Jones is a beautiful and smart 18-year-old who dreams of being a pilot. The problem is that it is 1941 and she's an African American female in the South. Clever Ida is so light skinned that she can "pass" as white so she fakes her application, and joins WASP—the Women Airforce Service Pilots.



Stockett, Kathryn

The Help

This powerful page-turner set in Mississippi in the early days of the civil rights movement, is the story of a group of white women and their black maids. Hilarious, gentle, full of heart, history and suspense.



Stork, Francisco

Marcelo in the Real World

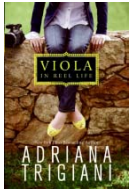
Seventeen-year-old Marcello is high-functioning on the autism spectrum and has always gone to a special school where people have understood and protected him. He has a difficult time reading peoples' emotions and facial expressions. Approaching his senior year, his father insists that he has to work in the mailroom at his law firm for the summer so he can learn how to function in the "real world" and possibly attend a mainstream high school in the fall. This book gives you a glimpse into his intriguing mind.



Stratton, Allan

Borderline

Things are not smooth sailing at the elite prep school that Sami's parents send him to. There, his Muslim background marks him as different. Caught between his father's seemingly endless rules and the more lenient world of his peers, Sami locks horns with his father. When Sami's father cancels a weekend father-son trip, Sami gets suspicious. What's his father up to? All hell breaks loose when the FBI descends upon the house and arrests Sami's dad as a suspected terrorist.



Trigiani, Adriana

Viola in Reel Life

When her documentary filmmaking parents head to Afghanistan for work, they send Viola to a boarding school in the middle of nowhere. The only thing that keeps her spirits up is working on her video diary and IM-ing with her best friend back in Brooklyn.



Venkatraman, Padma

Climbing the Stairs

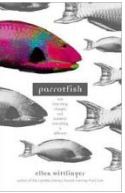
Vidya, 15, is living with her family in Bombay during World War II. Times are changing yet most of her friends are still preparing for arranged marriages. Will Vidya be forced to do the same?



Walls, Jeannette

Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel

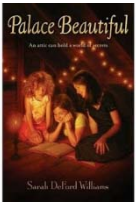
Drawn from her grandmother's life, this is the wild tale of precocious Lily Casey Smith, born in a dug-out in Texas in 1901 to an ex-convict and an intensely religious mother. By age 6, she's breaking in wild horses and working on the ranch. Her world is full of drama, suspense, fits and starts, and mighty challenges. Join spirited Lily on one heck of a ride!



Whittlinger, Ellen

Parrotfish

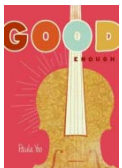
This quick read starts out with a bang and keeps the pace up until the end! Grady, (formerly known as Angela) figures out that she isn't really a lesbian after all, she's in fact a transsexual (a male in a female's body) and wants everyone (family, teachers, and fellow students) to call by her new male name. Will they accept him?



Williams, Sarah Deford

Palace Beautiful

Three kids and their parents move into a new house in Salt Lake City and become interested in ghosts. While investigating ghosts in the graveyard, they discover a secret crawl space in the attic, where they find a doorway and an old diary dating from 1918. Naturally, they read it and set out to find out what happen to the girl who kept the journal.



Yoo, Paula

Good Enough

Patti's parents have big dreams and strict rules for her: they expect her to go to an Ivy League college, excel in everything she does and refrain from dating although she 17 years old. Will she continue to please and obey her parents or will she find her own way?

Graphic Novels

Barry, Lynda

What It Is

Gorgeous, full-colored collages, drawing and stories: this book is a gem! You can read it straight through or bit by bit. Challenge yourself by doing the writing and drawing exercises. This book is the kind you'll want to refer to again.

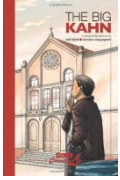




Katin, Miriam

We Are On Our Own

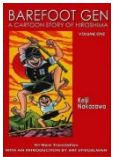
Katin was just a little girl during World War II. Fleeing from prosecution, with Esther, her Hungarian-Jewish mother, they abandoned their home and set off for the country with new identities for themselves. You won't forget this powerful true story.



Kleid, Neil

The Big Kahn

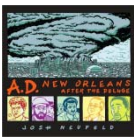
Rabbi David Kahn's life was a sham. Not until his funeral do his wife and adult children discover that their dad/husband was not actually ever Jewish and lived a complete lie. Naturally, the grieving, devastated family members must question their faith and identity. Intense.



Nakazawa, Keiji

Barefoot Gen (series)

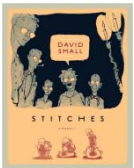
The series is loosely based on Nakazawa's childhood before, during and after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. A brilliant, eye-opening, and simply unforgettable read.



Neufeld, Josh

A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge

Follow six New Orleanians who were faced with the decision to stay or evacuate when Hurricane Katrina was approaching their city. You know what happened there. Read this page-turner today.



Small, David

Stitches: A Memoir

In this stunning graphic memoir, Caldecott-winning artist David Small tells the story of his complicated childhood and his journey into adolescence and adulthood.

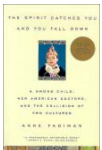


Thompson, Craig

Blankets

This coming-of-age memoir is enchanting and funny. Growing up in a deeply religious and painfully strict family in the Midwest, Thompson had a difficult time feeling as if he belonged anywhere.

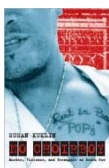
Non-Fiction



Fadiman, Anne

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

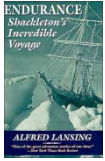
This is fascinating account of a Hmong family's clash with Western medicine and social services in the U.S. You'll learn a lot about the history of the Hmong, as well as their more recent experiences as immigrants in California.



Kuklin, Susan

No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row

No doubt, this is a dark, serious, and sobering subject, yet it is an important one to ponder. In their own words, prisoners share their thoughts about their lives before prison, as well as legal issues.



Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

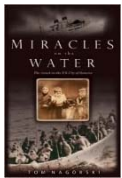
A true adventure book! In 1914 Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the South Atlantic on the Endurance with the object of crossing the Antarctic. They didn't get very far—still half a continent away from their intended base, the ship was trapped and then crushed in ice. It took them 17 months, but they made it back. This is a gripping, first-hand account of their trials and tribulations.



London, Jack

The People of the Abyss: The Underworld in the East End of Victorian London, 1902

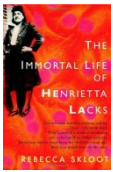
For research, London lived among the dejected in squalor in slums of the East End for a few months, sleeping in workhouses and on the street. Take a walk in his shoes and get a glimpse of the lives of the down and out.



Nagorski, Tom

Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack

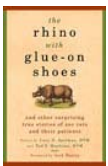
The chilling story of the a U-boat that was transporting children to what they thought was “safety,” yet ended up being attacked by a Nazi submarine during a freezing cold storm. Passengers rushed to lifeboats yet rescuers were nowhere to be seen.



Skloot, Rebecca

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

This is the story of Henrietta Lacks and her cervical cancer cells. Extracted from her tumor without her knowledge or consent, these cells gave rise to become one of the most important cell lines, known as HeLa, ever grown. Not only have they been instrumental in countless scientific breakthroughs, but a multi-billion dollar industry emerged based on the sale of these cells to labs around the world. But who was Henrietta Lacks?



Spelman, Lucy H.

The Rhino with Glue-On Shoes: And Other Surprising True Stories of Zoo Vets and their Patients

If you are an animal lover or a science buff, you won't want to miss out on this incredibly charming book!

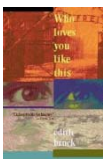


Memoir

Baker, Russel

Growing Up

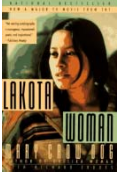
Baker recounts the story of his alternating tragic and joyful childhood growing up in West Virginia during the Great Depression. Baker grew up to become an award-winning reporter and columnist.



Bruck, Edith

Who Loves You Like This

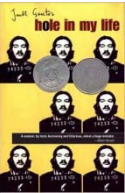
Edith Bruck was just 12 years old when she was separated from her family and sent to Auschwitz. This is an honest, unadorned account of her survival. She recounts her time in three concentration camps, adjustment to life after the war, and her search for inner peace.



Crow Dog, Mary

Lakota Woman

Mary Crow Dog recounts the story of her youth, growing up Indian in racist America. Forced into a religious boarding school run by missionaries, she was beaten regularly. The Indian kids were denied their native customs and speech. As a member of AIM (American Indian Movement), she participated in the stand-off at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, where she gave birth to her son. Although this is not a pretty story, it is inspirational and fascinating. Total lawlessness, drunken sprees, peyote ceremonies, and sweat lodges make this book one heck of a wild ride.



Gantos, Jack

Hole in My Life

Gantos' memoir chronicles his last year of high school and the poor decisions he made upon graduation which ultimately landed him in a federal prison. He is a thoughtful writer and his story is easy to read, although some of the descriptions about what he observed while in prison are a little harsh (understandably). It is fascinating to read about his desire to become a writer and the books that he read while trying to reach that goal.



O'Brien, Darcy

A Way of Life, Like Any Other

Growing up in Hollywood to two aging film stars isn't easy. Full of humor and irony, read O'Brien's dead-pan portrait of his family life and struggle to become his own person. Winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award



Read, Piers Paul

Alive

This is the true story of survivors of an airplane crash over the remote, snowy Andes Mountains.



Sedaris, David

Me Talk Pretty One Day

This collection of wry, hilarious, award-winning essays is about Sedaris' childhood, family and adulthood living in Paris.



Stapinski, Helene

Five-Finger Discount: A Crooked Family History

Stapinski's lively memoir conveys the grittiness of growing up in Jersey City in the 1970's and of her colorful family history. Many members of her family were petty thieves and were involved in illegal activities. Stapinski writes of the city's notoriously crooked politics, local toxic waste, Mafia trials, and gentrification and intertwines it with stories of her family's escapades. While most of the tales are truly hilarious, some are frankly heartrending.



Walls, Jeannette

The Glass Castle

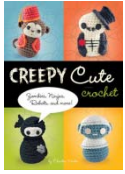
In this beautifully-written memoir, Walls tells the story of her unusual childhood without a trace of bitterness. Dysfunctional and intelligent, her parents encouraged their four children to, "fly under the radar" to avoid attracting attention to their unusual lifestyle. The family led a nomadic way of life and often did the "skedaddle" rather than pay rent or deal with authority. They often lived in squalor and extreme poverty. This novel is heart-wrenching, thought-provoking and a real page-turner.

Bored? Make something!

Haden, Christen

Creepy Cute Crochet: Zombies, Ninjas, Robots, and More!

Use these awesome patterns to crochet darling and spooky creatures. They'd make totally cute birthday presents.



Ray, Aimee

Stitching: Fresh and Fun Embroidery for Beginners

Whimsical and witty patterns to inspire your creative self! Make your pillow cases, totes, t-shirts five hundred times cooler by embroidering something cute on them and making them an original!



Roth, Ed

Stencil 101: Make Your Mark with 25 Reusable Stencils and Step-by-Step Instructions

Feeling ambitious? Use these totally hip and arty stencils to create t-shirts, decorate walls in your room or personalize your furniture.



Stein, Jeannine

Re-Bound: Creating Handmade Books from Recycled and Repurposed Materials

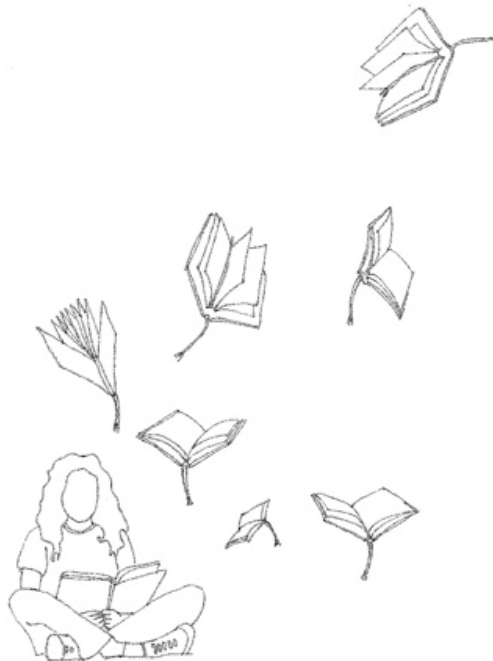
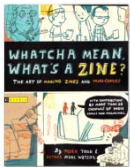
Learn book-binding and create gorgeous books using recycled items!



Todd, Mark and Esther Watson

Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine?

"Zines (pronounced "zeens") are cut-and-paste, self-published magazines reproduced at Kinko's or on the sly at work and distributed through mail order and word of mouth. They touch on sex, music, politics, television, movies, work, food, whatever." From the *Book of Zines*. Get off your rump, make your very own zine and distribute it to your friends!





Don't Miss These Fabulous Classics!

Alas Babylon by Pat Frank
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
Black Boy by Richard Wright
Carrie by Steven King
Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole
Double Indemnity by James M. Cain
Dracula by Mary Shelley
The Foundation Trilogy: Foundation, Foundation and Empire, Second Foundation by Isaac Asimov
Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
The Long Good Bye by Raymond Chandler
Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
Miss Lonely Hearts by Nathaniel West
The Moviegoer by Walker Percy
Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes
Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco
Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas
To Have, To Have Not by Ernest Hemingway
Woman in White by Wilkie Collins
The World According to Garp by John Irving
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte



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<http://www.saintannsny.org/depart/library/publib.html>

Yours Librarians, Maria, Denise, Ragan, & Eva