

Books for Grade 11 Independent Reading Unit

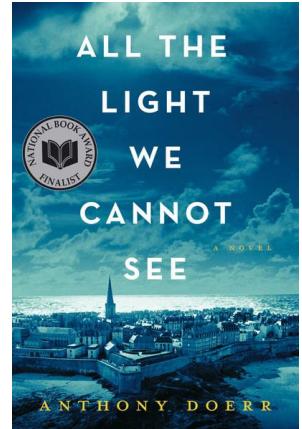
All the Light We Cannot See

Anthony Doerr

(Historical Fiction, WWII)

Marie Laure lives with her father in Paris within walking distance of the Museum of Natural History where he works as the master of the locks (there are thousands of locks in the museum). When she is six, she goes blind, and her father builds her a model of their neighborhood, every house, every manhole, so she can memorize it with her fingers and navigate the real streets with her feet and cane. When the Germans occupy Paris, father and daughter flee to Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast, where Marie-Laure's agoraphobic great uncle lives in a tall, narrow house by the sea wall.

In another world in Germany, an orphan boy, Werner, grows up with his younger sister, Jutta, both enchanted by a crude radio Werner finds. He becomes a master at building and fixing radios, a talent that wins him a place at an elite and brutal military academy and, ultimately, makes him a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. Werner travels through the heart of Hitler Youth to the far-flung outskirts of Russia, and finally into Saint-Malo, where his path converges with Marie-Laure. Doerr's gorgeous combination of soaring imagination with observation is electric. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.



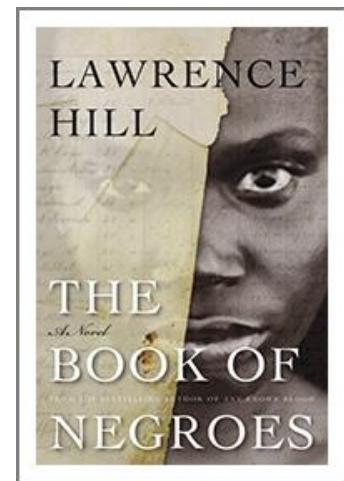
The Book of Negroes

Lawrence Hill

(Historical Fiction)

Abducted as an 11-year-old child from her village in West Africa and forced to walk for months to the sea in a coffle—a string of slaves—Aminata Diallo is sent to live as a slave in South Carolina. But years later, she forges her way to freedom, serving the British in the Revolutionary War and registering her name in the historic “Book of Negroes.”

A sweeping story that transports the reader from a tribal African village to a plantation in the southern United States, from the teeming Halifax docks to the manor houses of London, *The Book of Negroes* introduces one of the strongest female characters in recent Canadian fiction, one who cuts a swath through a world hostile to her colour and her sex.



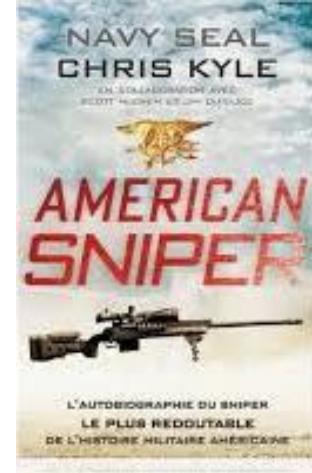
American Sniper
Chris Kyle
(Autobiographical)

A fantastic book written by SEAL Chief Chris Scott Kyle, *American Sniper* is a book that you will not be able to put down. You will read it cover to cover without wanting a break. It is an amazing autobiography by Chris Kyle, who is the current highest kill rate sniper in U.S. military history. Chris Kyle had more than 150 officially confirmed kills (the previous American record was 109).

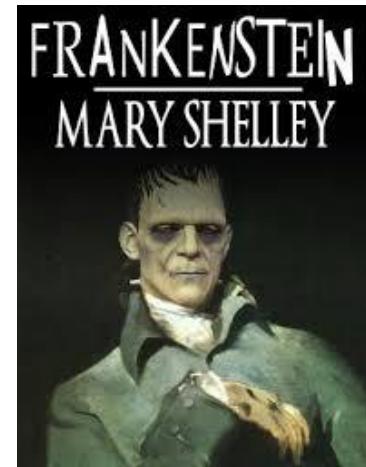
This book is a New York Times bestseller which tells of Chris Kyle's 10 years as a Navy SEAL including his multiple combat tours in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and elsewhere. After September 11, 2001 he was thrown into battle to which he excelled.

Kyle tells of his early years growing up in Texas and learning an appreciation for guns and of course Texas rodeos. His no fear attitude towards life gained him a hard man reputation in civilian life as well as military life. He writes about the tough BUDS and SEAL courses and how life in the SEALS takes its toll on relationships and marriages. He also talks in depth about losing SEAL brothers and how difficult that can be.

This is also confirmed in the book with excerpts from Taya Kyle (Chris Kyle's wife) and how she dealt with being married to a SEAL. It is surely one of the best Special Ops books ever written by an American legend.



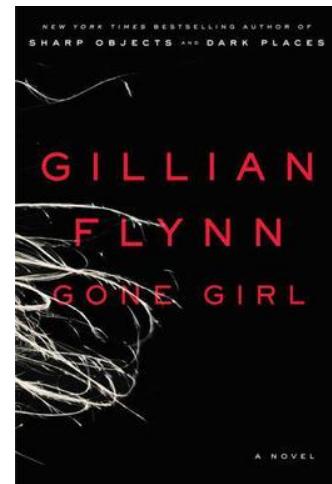
Frankenstein
Mary Shelley
(Classic, Gothic, Horror)



Gone Girl
Gillian Flynn
(Thriller/Crime)

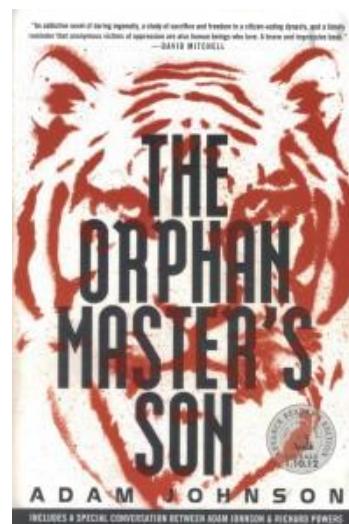
Marriage can be a real killer. One of the most critically acclaimed suspense writers of our time, New York Times bestseller Gillian Flynn, takes that statement to its darkest place in this unputdownable masterpiece about a marriage gone terribly, terribly wrong. As *The Washington Post* proclaimed, her work “draws you in and keeps you reading with the force of a pure but nasty addiction.” *Gone Girl*’s toxic mix of sharp-edged wit with deliciously chilling prose creates a nerve-fraying thriller that confounds you at every turn.

On a warm summer morning in North Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy’s fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick Dunne’s clever and beautiful wife disappears from their rented McMansion on the Mississippi River. Husband-of-the-Year Nick Dunne isn’t doing himself any favors with cringe-worthy daydreams about the slope and shape of his wife’s head, but hearing from Amy through flashbacks in her diary reveal the perky perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media—as well as Amy’s fiercely doting parents—the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behavior. Nick is oddly evasive, and he’s definitely bitter—but is he really a killer? As the cops close in, every couple in town is soon wondering how well they know the one that they love. With his twin sister Margo at his side, Nick stands by his innocence. Trouble is, if Nick didn’t do it, where is that beautiful wife? And what was left in that silvery gift box hidden in the back of her bedroom closet?



The Orphan Master’s Son
Adam Johnson
(Fiction, Propaganda, North Korea Power)

Pak Jun Do is the haunted son of a lost mother—a singer “stolen” to Pyongyang—and an influential father who runs a work camp for orphans. Superiors in the state soon recognize the boy’s loyalty and keen instincts. Considering himself “a humble citizen of the greatest nation in the world,” Jun Do rises in the ranks. He becomes a professional kidnapper who must navigate the shifting rules, arbitrary violence, and baffling demands of his Korean overlords in order to stay alive. Driven to the absolute limit of what any human being could endure, he boldly takes on the treacherous role of rival to Kim Jong Il in an attempt to save the woman he loves, Sun Moon, a legendary actress “so pure, she didn’t know what starving people looked like.”



Zeitoun
Dave Eggers
(Autobiographical)

The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, Zeitoun is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

