

Reading List for English I

Mrs. Moss LWCS 2011.12

The following books are historical fiction related to times and places studied at LWCS. Many are available in the school library, but all are available through public libraries.

1. *The Outsiders* Hinton

A story of youth gangs and the bonds that hold them together.

2. *A Year of Impossible Goodbyes* Choi

Sookan lives through the brutal Japanese occupation and escapes North Korea during the Communist takeover. An eye-opening story of the human spirit in an unjust world. Sad, but unforgettable.

3. *After the Dancing Days* Rostkowski

Who and what is a hero? A girl comes to terms with the effects of war. Set in a hospital immediately after WWI.

4. *The Land I Lost* Nhuong

Multiple award winner. The loving memories of the author's childhood in a Vietnamese hamlet. Includes fascinating information on customs, folklore, animals, and a different philosophy of life.

5. *Dragon's Gate* Yep

Based on the experience of the Chinese who built the transcontinental railroad at the time of the War Between the States, this is the story of one boy's fight for survival amid brutal working conditions and bitter cold. Stunning.

6. *Farewell to Manzanar* Houston

Seen through the eyes of a child, the story of a Japanese-American family's four years at Manzanar internment camp during WWII. Eye-opening. Did such things happen in the U.S.?

7. *A Day No Pigs Would Die* Peck

A boy grows up on a Vermont farm; humorous and touching.

8. *The Road from Home* Kherdan

The Armenian Holocaust is unknown to most today, reflecting a cultural amnesia that Hitler used to justify his own some twenty years later. This story describes the journey of a teenager through Turkey in her attempt to escape.

9. *3 Cups of Tea* Mortenson

Read how a mountain climber found new focus in changing the world of Afghanistan by building schools. A true story about a mission that is ongoing.

10. *Before We Were Free* Alvarez

What would life be like for a teen living under a dictatorship? Author Julia Alvarez and her family escaped from the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic when she was 10, but in *Before We Were Free* she imagines, through the stories of her cousins and friends, how it was for those who stayed behind.

11. *Parallel Journeys* Ayer

This is a book to make your blood run cold. Through Ayer's narrative and excerpts from Heck's memoirs, *A Child of Hitler* and *The Burden of Hitler's Legacy*, readers learn how Alfons changed from a loving, wholesome boy to a "Nazi devil" (even the Germans called the elite Hitler Youth by that name). It is frightening to see how easily young people can be swayed, and readers learn just how it happened. Alternating chapters reveal Helen Waterford's story through excerpts from her book, *Commitment to the Dead*, and Ayer's background material. Fleeing with her fiancée to Amsterdam after Kristallnacht, Helen was again caught in the Nazi noose and struggled to survive.