

Rising Freshman/Sophomore Selections

Arroz Con Cosas - Torres and García, fiction

A funny story about cooking the perfect paella, in easy Spanish for beginning language learners (with bilingual English-Spanish Notes and Vocabulary)

Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre - Colbert, nonfiction A searing new work of nonfiction from award-winning author Brandy Colbert about the history and legacy of one of the most deadly and destructive acts of racial violence in American history: the Tulsa Race Massacre. Winner, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award.

Chasing Space - Melvil, memoir, non fiction

"In Chasing Space, Leland Melvin tackles stupendous obstacles with dogged determination, showing you what is indeed possible in life—if you believe." —Neil deGrasse Tyson, author of *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* and *Welcome to the Universe*.

The Fort - Korman, fiction

From the bestselling author of RESTART, the story of a middle-school "band of brothers" -- five friends who need to stick together after they set up a hideout in an abandoned bomb shelter and discover that the only way to be true friends is to reveal their secrets and help each other out.

The Gates of Fire - Pressfield, historic fiction

At Thermopylae, a rocky mountain pass in northern Greece, the feared and admired Spartan soldiers stood three hundred strong. Theirs was a suicide mission, to hold the pass against the invading millions of the mighty Persian army.

The Graveyard Book - Gaiman, graphic novel or regular version, fiction

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack - who has already killed Bod's family....

The Junction Boys - Dent, nonfiction

In vivid and powerful images reminiscent of *Friday Night Lights, Hoosiers*, and *The Last Picture Show*, these young men and their driven coach come to life. *The Junction Boys* contains all the hallmarks of a classic sports story, and it combines America's love of college football with an extraordinary story of perseverance and triumph.

Marvels - Busiek, Fiction/Graphic Novel

Follows thirty-five years of Marvel superhero action from the perspective of Phil Sheldon, a newspaper photographer who witnessed some of the more spectacular battles and events.

Shoe Dog - Knight - memoir, nonfiction

In this candid and riveting memoir, for the first time ever, Nike founder and CEO Phil Knight shares the inside story of the company's early days as an intrepid start-up and its evolution into one of the world's most iconic, game-changing, and profitable brands.

The Ultimate Gift - Stovall, realistic Christian fiction

Jason Stephens lives a life of wealth. A life of privilege. A life that's about to take a radical turn. Jason always had a straightforward relationship with his billionaire grandfather, Howard "Red" Stevens. He shunned him but welcomed his money. So he figured when Red died, his part of the inheritance would be a simple cash transaction that would fund his extravagant lifestyle. Instead, for Jason to receive his inheritance, he's given an ultimatum...a series of twelve tests or "gifts" as Red calls them. If he fails at any one of them, he loses everything. If he completes them all, the ultimate gift will be his.