

2020 Summer Reading List: Rising English 10 Students

As the English 10 teaching team, we have developed a summer reading assignment that prioritizes student choice and engagement. Below, we have listed the central themes we will explore in our World Literature classes throughout the school year, along with suggested books that connect to these themes. Every English 10 student should read 1-4 books connected to the course themes this summer and prepare to participate in class discussions and activities based upon those books. The suggested list represents a wide range of genres, styles, and reading levels. In fact, many of these books are prize-winners and best-sellers that might appeal to parents or other family members as well. We hope that this list will spark shared reading experiences within your families this summer.

While we have selected these books because of their literary merit and thematic connections, we also invite you to expand beyond this list if you find a different book that connects well to one or more of these themes. We also encourage you to do some research before selecting the books you will read this summer. For more guidance and information on book selection, visit www.commonensemedia.org, www.goodreads.com, or email the English Department Chair, Lisa Beskenis, at ltbeskenis@fcps.edu.

How to find these books?

For each book there is a link for libraries that have e-books for these selections. In addition, **Fairfax County Public Library is starting curbside pickup for library books on Monday**, so this is another option students can take advantage of for summer reading. Please check out the Fairfax County Public Library for more information about how to read actual books this summer!

The suggested books cover some or all of the following themes:

1. Cultural Collision
2. Tragic Inevitability
3. War in Society/The Individual in War
4. Survival

After finishing a book on the list, we invite you to share your thoughts and recommendations on our [English 10 Summer Reading FlipGrid](#). Students should present a book talk in their FlipGrid video that delivers a brief (non-spoiling) summary of the book, their thoughts and opinions on the book, and a description of an audience that would enjoy reading the book. Our hope is that this will be a fun, engaging way to share our reading with the entire Sophomore class!



Students should scan the QR code to
access the FlipGrid or click the
hyperlink in the above paragraph!

Rising 10th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions

1. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

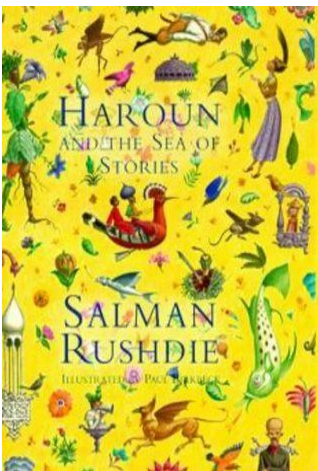


- Ebook available for free from the [McLean High School Library](#)
- Ebook available for free from [Fairfax County Public Library](#)
- Ebook available for free from [Arlington County Public Library](#)
- Ebook available for free from [Loudoun County Public Library](#)

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

--Goodreads

2. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie

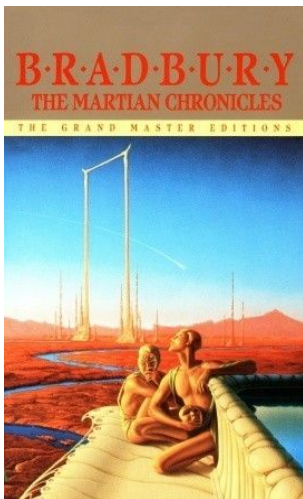


- Ebook available for free from [Fairfax County Public Library](#) (audio)

Set in an exotic Eastern landscape peopled by magicians and fantastic talking animals, Salman Rushdie's classic children's novel *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* inhabits the same imaginative space as *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Alchemist*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. In this captivating work of fantasy from the author of *Midnight's Children* and *The Enchantress of Florence*, Haroun sets out on an adventure to restore the poisoned source of the sea of stories. On the way, he encounters many foes, all intent on draining the sea of all its storytelling powers.

--Goodreads

3. *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

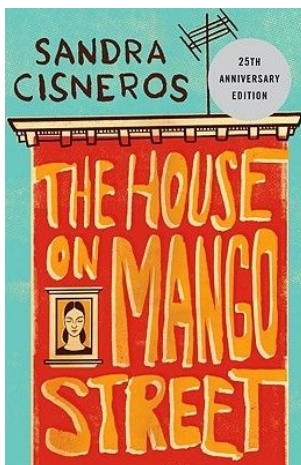


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- Ebook available for free from [Loudoun County Public Library](#) (**audio**)

The *Martian Chronicles* tells the story of humanity's repeated attempts to colonize the red planet. The first men were few. Most succumbed to a disease they called the Great Loneliness when they saw their home planet dwindle to the size of a fist. They felt they had never been born. Those few that survived found no welcome on Mars. The shape-changing Martians thought they were native lunatics and duly locked them up. But more rockets arrived from Earth, and more, piercing the hallucinations projected by the Martians. People brought their old prejudices with them – and their desires and fantasies, tainted dreams. These were soon inhabited by the strange native beings, with their caged flowers and birds of flame.

--Goodreads

4. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

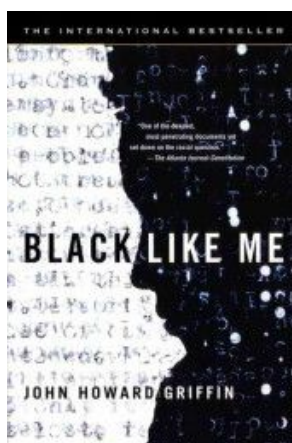


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Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.

--Goodreads

5. *Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin

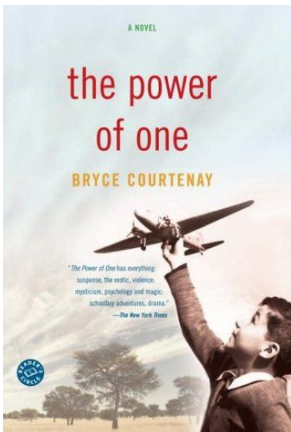


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In the Deep South of the 1950s, journalist John Howard Griffin decided to cross the color line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a Southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. His audacious, still chillingly relevant eyewitness history is a work about race and humanity—that in this new millennium still has something important to say to every American.

-- Goodreads

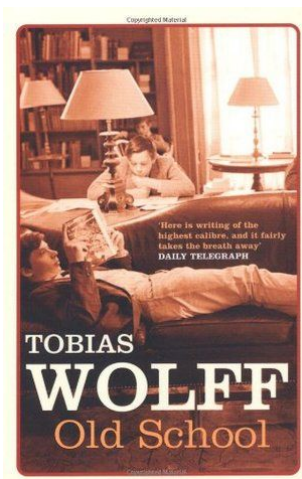
6. *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay



In 1939, as Hitler casts his enormous, cruel shadow across the world, the seeds of apartheid take root in South Africa. There, a boy called Peekay is born. His childhood is marked by humiliation and abandonment, yet he vows to survive and conceives heroic dreams, which are nothing compared to what life actually has in store for him. He embarks on an epic journey through a land of tribal superstition and modern prejudice where he will learn the power of words, the power to transform lives and the power of one.

-- Goodreads

7. *Old School* by Tobias Wolfe

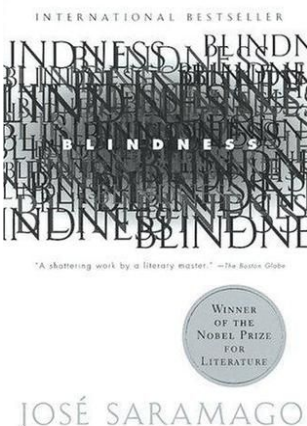


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At one prestigious American public school, the boys like to emphasise their democratic ideals - the only acknowledged snobbery is literary snobbery. Once a term, a big name from the literary world visits and a contest takes place. The boys have to submit a piece of writing and the winner receives a private audience with the visitor. But then it is announced that Hemingway, the boys' hero, is coming to the school. The competition intensifies, and the morals the school and the boys pride themselves on - honour, loyalty and friendship - are crumbling under the strain. Only time will tell who will win and what it will cost them.

--Goodreads

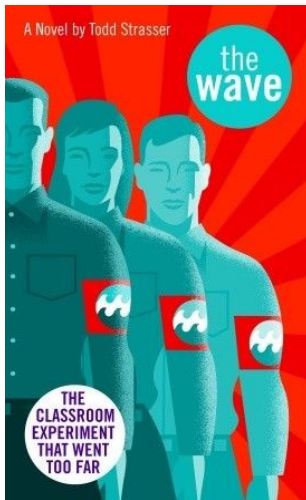
8. *Blindness* by Jose Saramago



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A city is hit by an epidemic of "white blindness" that spares no one. Authorities confine the blind to an empty mental hospital, but there the criminal element holds everyone captive, stealing food rations and assaulting women. There is one eyewitness to this nightmare who guides her charges—among them a boy with no mother, a girl with dark glasses, a dog of tears—through the barren streets, and their procession becomes as uncanny as the surroundings are harrowing. As *Blindness* reclaims the age-old story of a plague, it evokes the vivid and trembling horrors of the twentieth century, leaving readers with a powerful vision of the human spirit that's bound both by weakness and exhilarating strength.

9. *The Wave* by Todd Strasser

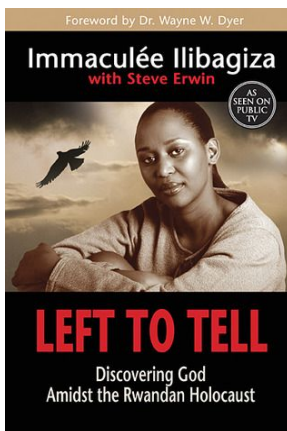


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The Wave is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.

--Amazon

10. *Left to Tell: Discovering God Against the Rwandan Genocide* by Immaculee Ilibagiza

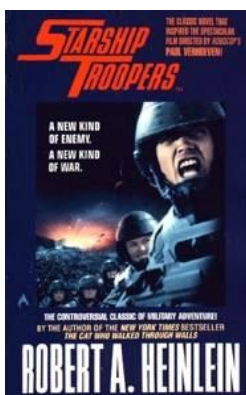


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Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Immaculee's family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans. Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love—a love so strong she was able to seek out and forgive her family's killers. The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss.

--Goodreads

11. *Starship Troopers* by Robert Heinlein

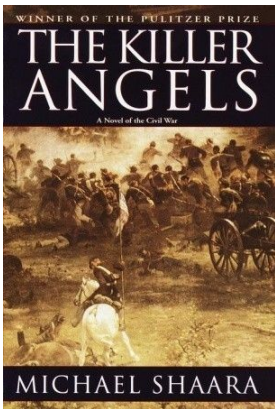


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"Starship Troopers" is a classic novel by one of science fiction's greatest writers of all time and is now a Tri-Star movie. In one of Heinlein's most controversial bestsellers, a recruit of the future goes through the toughest boot camp in the universe -- and into battle with the Terran Mobile Infantry against mankind's most frightening enemy.

--Goodreads

12. *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara

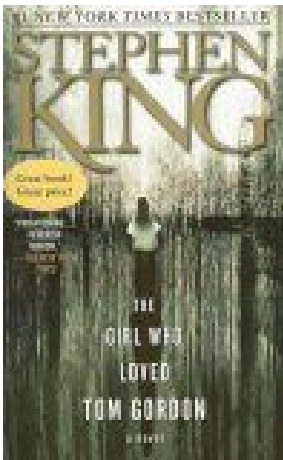


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In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, two armies fought for two dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Shattered futures, forgotten innocence, and crippled beauty were also the casualties of war. *The Killer Angels* is unique, sweeping, unforgettable—a dramatic re-creation of the battleground for America's destiny.

--Goodreads

13. *The Girl who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King

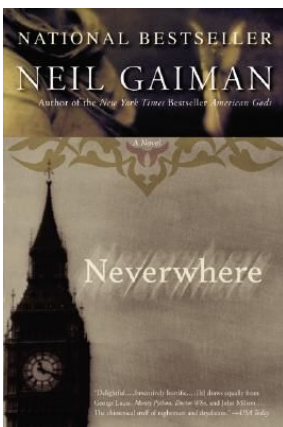


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Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland strays from the path while she and her recently divorced mother and brother take a hike along a branch of the Appalachian Trail. Lost for days, wandering farther and farther astray, Trisha has only her portable radio for comfort. A huge fan of Tom Gordon, a Boston Red Sox relief pitcher, she listens to baseball games and fantasizes that her hero will save her. Nature isn't her only adversary, though - something dangerous may be tracking Trisha through the dark woods.

--Goodreads

14. *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman

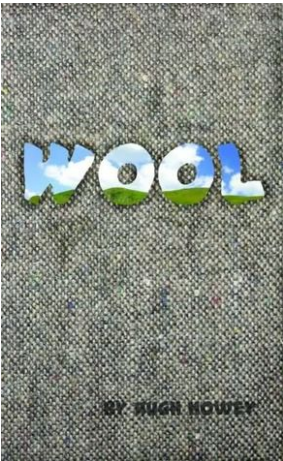


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Under the streets of London there's a place most people could never even dream of. A city of monsters and saints, murderers and angels, knights in armour and pale girls in black velvet. This is the city of the people who have fallen between the cracks. Richard Mayhew, a young businessman, is going to find out more than enough about this other London. A single act of kindness catapults him out of his workday existence and into a world that is at once eerily familiar and utterly bizarre. And a strange destiny awaits him down here, beneath his native city: Neverwhere.

--Goodreads

15. *Wool* by Hugh Howey

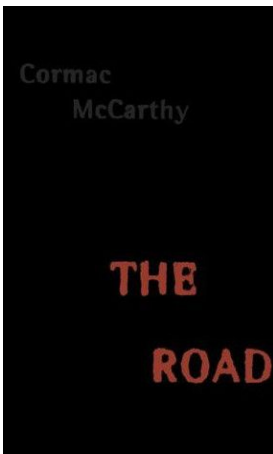


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For suspense-filled, post-apocalyptic thrillers, *Wool* is more than a self-published ebook phenomenon—it's the new standard in classic science fiction. In a ruined and toxic future, a community exists in a giant silo underground, hundreds of stories deep. There, men and women live in a society full of regulations they believe are meant to protect them. Sheriff Holston, who has unwaveringly upheld the silo's rules for years, unexpectedly breaks the greatest taboo of all: He asks to go outside. His fateful decision unleashes a drastic series of events. An unlikely candidate is appointed to replace him: Juliette, a mechanic with no training in law, whose special knack is fixing machines. Now Juliette is about to be entrusted with fixing her silo, and she will soon learn just how badly her world is broken. The silo is about to confront what its history has only hinted about and its inhabitants have never dared to whisper. Uprising.

--Amazon.com

16. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

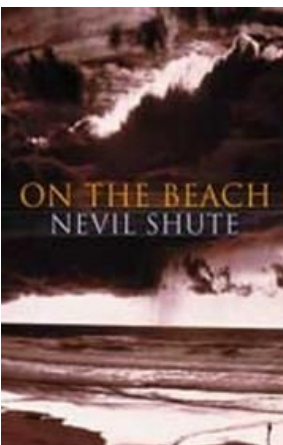


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A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other.

--Goodreads

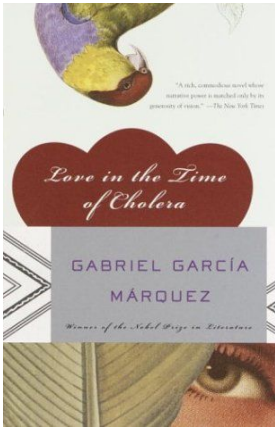
17. *On the Beach* by Nevil Shute



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After a nuclear World War III has destroyed most of the globe, the few remaining survivors in southern Australia await the radioactive cloud that is heading their way and bringing certain death to everyone in its path. Among them is an American submarine captain struggling to resist the knowledge that his wife and children in the United States must be dead. Then a faint Morse code signal is picked up, transmitting from somewhere near Seattle, and Captain Towers must lead his submarine crew on a bleak tour of the ruined world in a desperate search for signs of life. *On the Beach* is a remarkably convincing portrait of how ordinary people might face the most unimaginable nightmare.

18. *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

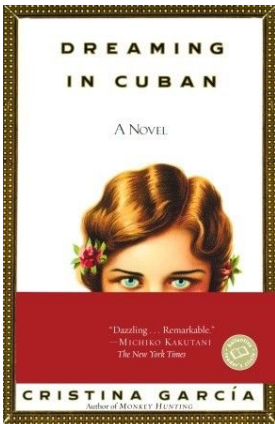


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In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.

--Goodreads

19. *Dreaming in Cuban* by Cristina Garcia

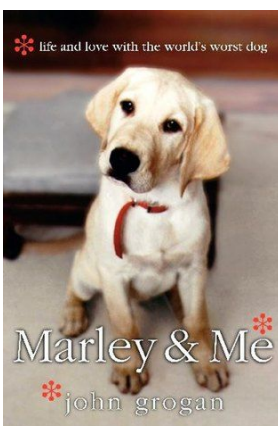


- Ebook available for free from the [McLean High School Library](#)

Here is the dreamy and bittersweet story of a family divided by politics and geography by the Cuban revolution. It is the family story of Celia del Pino, and her husband, daughter and grandchildren, from the mid-1930s to 1980. Celia's story mirrors the magical realism of Cuba itself, a country of beauty and poverty, idealism and corruption. *DREAMING IN CUBAN* presents a unique vision and a haunting lamentation for a past that might have been.

--Goodreads

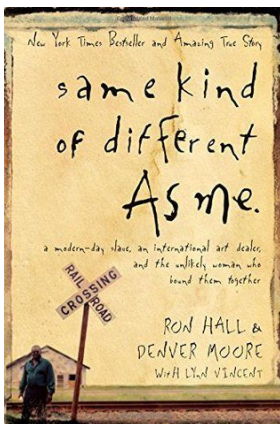
20. *Marley and Me* by John Grogan



- Ebook available for free from [Fairfax County Public Library](#)

John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same. Marley quickly grew into a barreling, ninety-seven-pound steamroller of a Labrador retriever, a dog like no other. He crashed through screen doors, gouged through drywall, flung drool on guests, stole women's undergarments, and ate nearly everything he could get his mouth around, including couches and fine jewelry. Obedience school did no good—Marley was expelled. Neither did the tranquilizers the veterinarian prescribed for him with the admonishment, "Don't hesitate to use these." And yet Marley's heart was pure. Just as he joyfully refused any limits on his behavior, his love and loyalty were boundless, too. Through it all, he remained steadfast, a model of devotion, even when his family was at its wit's end. Unconditional love, they would learn, comes in many forms.

21. *Same Kind of Different: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer, and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound Them Together* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, Lynn Vincent



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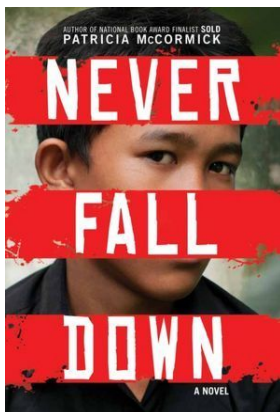
A dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery.

An upscale art dealer accustomed to the world of Armani and Chanel.

A gutsy woman with a stubborn dream. A story so incredible no novelist would dare dream it.

--Goodreads

22. *Never Fall Down* by Patricia McCormick

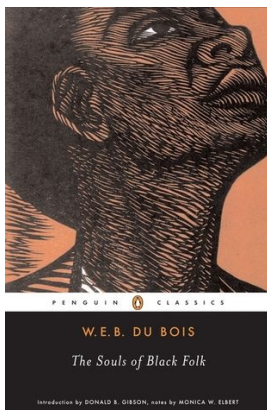


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This National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge. Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond. When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever. Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children dying before his eyes. One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers. This decision will save his life, but it will pull him into the very center of what we know today as the Killing Fields. And just as the country is about to be liberated, Arn is handed a gun and forced to become a soldier.

-- Goodreads

23. *The Souls of Black Folk* - W.E.B. Du Bois

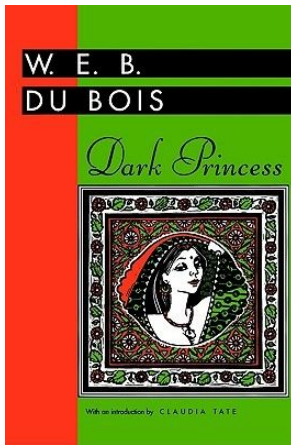


This landmark book is a founding work in the literature of black protest. W. E. B. Du Bois (1868–1963) played a key role in developing the strategy and program that dominated early 20th-century black protest in America. In this collection of essays, first published together in 1903, he eloquently affirms that it is beneath the dignity of a human being to beg for those rights that belong inherently to all mankind. He also charges that the strategy of accommodation to white supremacy advanced by Booker T. Washington, then the most influential black leader in America, would only serve to perpetuate black oppression. Publication of *The Souls of Black Folk* was a dramatic event that helped to polarize black leaders into two groups: the more conservative followers of Washington and the more radical

supporters of aggressive protest. Its influence cannot be overstated. It is essential reading for everyone interested in African-American history and the struggle for civil rights in America.

-- Goodreads

24. *Dark Princess* - W.E.B. Du Bois



The *Dark Princess* is a story of magical love and radical politics, a romance facing obstacles in a white-dominated world. Du Bois's allegorical tale follows Mathew Townes from his political disillusionment to his association with a powerful and seductive revolutionary leader, Kautilya, the princess of the Tibetan Kingdom of Bwodpur. With *Dark Princess*, Du Bois explores the color line from a fantastical angle while inserting his signature sociological style. With a series introduction by editor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and an introduction by Homi Bhabha, this edition is essential for anyone interested in African American history.

--Goodreads