

Reading Circles – Secondary 5

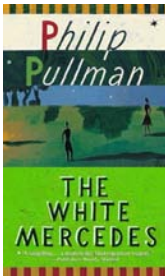


The Hunger Games

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one girl and one boy between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. But Katniss has also resolved to outwit the creators of the games. To do that she will have to be the last person standing at the end of the deadly ordeal, and that will take every ounce of strength and cunning she has.

Related themes: reality TV, war, love, politics, and death.

384 pages
9.99\$

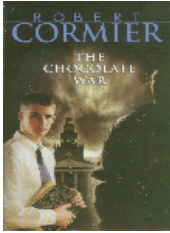


The White Mercedes

Written by the author of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, this is a modern-day Shakespearean tragedy.

Chris Marshall met the girl he was going to kill on a warm night in early June... A chance meeting with Jenny at an Oxford party leaves seventeen-year-old Chris with hope for a summer romance — and no premonition of trouble. Busy with his job and soon in love with Jenny, whose cheerful surface belies the dark uncertainty of her past, Chris misses all the signs of danger. Before he knows it, he's caught in the sinister web of a criminal whose desire for revenge crushes all those who stand in his way.

170 pages
7.50\$



Chocolate War

Stunned by his mother's recent death and appalled by the way his father sleepwalks through life, Jerry Renault, a New England high school student, ponders the poster in his locker — “Do I dare disturb the universe?”. Part of his universe is Archie Costello, leader of a secret school society — the Vigils — and master of intimidation. Archie though is intimidated by a cool, ambitious teacher into having the Vigils spearhead the annual fund-raising event: a chocolate sale. When Jerry refuses to be bullied into selling chocolates, he becomes a hero, but his defiance is a threat to Archie, the Vigils, and the school. In the inevitable showdown, Archie's skill at intimidation turns Jerry from hero to outcast, to victim, leaving him alone and terribly vulnerable.

Robert Cormier has been called "the single most important writer in the whole history of young adult literature." His many acclaimed books include *The Chocolate War*, *I Am the Cheese*, *After the First Death*, *Beyond the Chocolate War*, *Fade*, *The Bumblebee Flies Anyway*, *We All Fall Down*, *Tunes for Bears to Dance To*, *In the Middle of the Night*, *Other Bells for Us to Ring*, *Eight Plus One*, *Tenderness*, *Heroes*, *Frenchtown Summer* and *The Rag and Bone Shop*. His books have won many awards and have been translated into several languages, becoming modern classics. In 1991 he received the Margaret A. Edwards Award, honouring his lifetime contribution to writing for teens.

272 pages
9.99\$



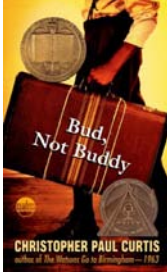
Son of the Mob

It would seem that Vince Luca is just like any other high school guy, but there is one thing that sets him apart from other kids – his father happens to be the head of a powerful crime organization. Sure, Vince’s family connections come in handy for certain things (like when teachers are afraid to give him a bad grade), but it can put a serious crimp in your dating life! How do you explain to your girlfriend what your father does for a living?

When Vince finally meets a girl who seems worth the trouble, her father turns out to be the FBI agent who has been watching Vince’s family for years and wants to put his father away for good.

Written as a modern Romeo and Juliet, this novel will please both boys and girls. The first book of a series of two, it’s a big success with teens. Gordon Korman, a Canadian-born author, has been writing since the age of twelve and displays a lot of humour in his novels.

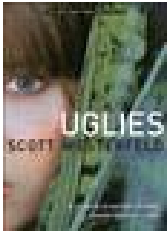
272 pages
\$9,99



Bud, Not Buddy

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan, and when 10-year-old Bud decides to hit the road to find his father, nothing can stop him.
(Part of the "Readers Circle" collection)

272 pages
7.99\$



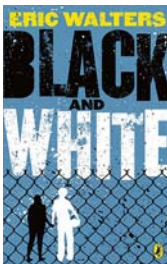
Uglies

This novel is set in our world hundreds of years later. Our society has been decimated, as well as everything that we know about our planet. The remaining humans are born ugly, and at the age of sixteen, they all receive an operation that makes them pretty.

Tally, who is about to turn sixteen, can't wait for the transformation and to graduate to a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really good time. But Tally's friend Shay runs away to join a small group of people that do not want to undergo the operation, therefore choosing to stay ugly. If Tally does not succeed in bringing Shay back, then she can't fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming pretty.

While over 400 pages long, the print is large, and the pages are of a smaller size. Well written, there is a little bit of slang, but it's all put in context. Although the main characters are both girls, the boys can relate since the men in this novel undergo the same operation, and some play very important parts in this novel. Girls and boys will definitely want to discuss and analyse the importance that this futuristic society gives to plastic surgery and superficial values, while lying about the brainwashing that comes with the surgery.

425 pages
\$11.99

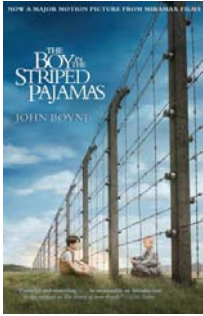


Black and White

Thomas and Denyse have a lot in common. They both love basketball and sugar on their popcorn, but they have one major difference: Thomas is white and Denyse is black. Some people start making racist remarks when they go out, and their parents warn them of the hardships ahead. They can't understand what the big deal is, but will the pressure of this relationship break them apart?

Interesting themes: racial issues, gender issues, teen relationships, and basketball.

272 pages (ISBN 9780143312505)
8.99\$



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

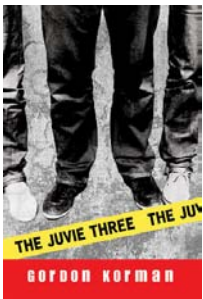
Berlin 1942

When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance.

But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

240 pages

9.99\$



The Juvie Three

Gecko Fosse drove the getaway car.

Terence Florian ran with the worst gang in Chicago.

Arjay Moran killed someone.

All three boys are serving time in juvenile detention centres until they get a second chance at life in the form of Douglas Healy. A former juvenile delinquent himself, Healy is running an experimental halfway house in New York City where he wants to make a difference in the lives of kids like Gecko, Terence, and Arjay.

Things are going well, until one night Healy is accidentally knocked unconscious while trying to break up a scuffle among the boys. Terrified of the consequences, they drop him off at a hospital and run away. But when Healy awakes, he has no memory of them or the halfway house. Afraid of being sent back to Juvie, the guys hatch a crazy scheme to continue on as if the group leader never left. They will go to school, do their community service, attend therapy, and act like model citizens until Healy's memory returns and he can resume his place with them.

But life keeps getting in the way...like when Gecko finds romance. Or Arjay gets famous. Or Terence starts reverting to his old ways. If the boys are discovered, their second chance will be their last.

272 pages

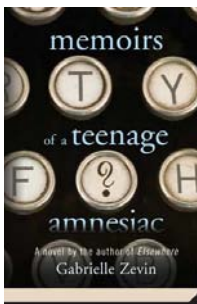
10.99\$



Lord of the Flies

William Golding's classic tale about a group of English schoolboys, who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island, is just as chilling and relevant today as when it was first published in 1954. At first, the stranded boys cooperate, attempting to gather food, make shelters, and maintain signal fires. Overseeing their efforts are Ralph, "the boy with fair hair," and Piggy, Ralph's chubby, wisdom-dispensing sidekick whose thick spectacles come in handy for lighting fires. Although Ralph tries to impose order and delegate responsibility, there are many in their number who would rather swim, play, or hunt the island's wild pig population. Soon Ralph's rules are being ignored or challenged outright. His fiercest antagonist is Jack, the redheaded leader of the pig hunters, who manages to lure away many of the boys to join his band of painted savages. The situation deteriorates as the trappings of civilization continue to fall away, until Ralph discovers that instead of being hunters, he and Piggy have become the hunted: "He forgot his words, his hunger and thirst, and became fear; hopeless fear on flying feet." Golding's gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition.

248 pages
11.99\$



Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

If Naomi had picked tails, she would have won the coin toss. She wouldn't have had to go back for the yearbook camera, and she wouldn't have hit her head on the steps. She wouldn't have woken up in an ambulance with amnesia. She certainly would have remembered her boyfriend, Ace. She might even have remembered why she fell in love with him in the first place. She would understand why her best friend, Will, keeps calling her 'Chief.' She'd get all his inside jokes, and maybe he wouldn't be so frustrated with her for forgetting things she can't possibly remember. She'd know about her mom's new family. She'd know about her dad's fiancée. She wouldn't have to spend her junior year relearning all the French she supposedly knew already. She never would have met James, the boy with the questionable past and the even fuzzier future, who tells her he once wanted to kiss her. She wouldn't have wanted to kiss him back. But Naomi picked heads.

304 pages
11.50\$