

**RANDOM  RECOMMENDS...**

New &amp; Forthcoming School-Appropriate Titles

For your convenience, Mass Market (MM) and Trade Paperback (Tr Pbk) titles are indicated with an asterisk. Where available, we'll provide reading and interest level information in **bright red**.

To request a review copy of any title listed here, please contact Kaiulani Kaneta at [kkaneta@randomhouse.com](mailto:kkaneta@randomhouse.com).

### 2008 New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age

We're pleased to announce that 40 books from Random House, Inc.'s adult publishers have been chosen for this year's New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age List. Here's a selection of some of the books on this year's list:

- **Brother, I'm Dying** by *Edwidge Danticat*
- **My Lobotomy** by *Howard Dully and Charles Fleming*
- **Acacia** by *David Anthony Durham*
- **Genghis** by *Conn Iggulden*
- **Un Lun Dun** by *China Miéville*

For a full listing of titles from Random House, Inc.'s adult publishers on this year's list, download this PDF: <http://www.randomhouse.com/highschool/pdf/2008BTA.pdf>.

### \***Tales Before Narnia**

*Edited by Douglas A. Anderson*

In his acclaimed collection *Tales Before Tolkien*, Douglas A. Anderson illuminated the sources, inspirations, and influences that fired J.R.R. Tolkien's genius. Now Anderson turns his attention to Tolkien's colleague and friend C. S. Lewis, whose influence on modern fantasy, through his beloved Narnia books, is second only to Tolkien's own.

Del Rey | TR | March 2008 | 978-0-345-49890-8 | 352 pages | \$15.00

**Reading Level: 7**

### **Escape from Saddam: The Incredible True Story of One Man's Journey to Freedom**

*by Lewis Alsamari*

*Escape from Saddam* is a powerful nonfiction thriller that, even as it plunges the reader into a netherworld of crooked border police, military checkpoints, counterfeiters, and smugglers, provides a fascinating window into a totalitarian regime. It is also a remarkably inspirational story of a resourceful young man who refused to accept his fate... and then risked everything he'd achieved to save his family.

Crown | HC | March 2008 | 978-0-307-39401-9 | 320 pages | \$24.95

**Reading Level: 8**

### \***Dark Wraith of Shannara**

*by Terry Brooks*

The first-ever graphic novel set in the world of Shannara!

Prepare to enter the breathtaking realm of the Four Lands, where beings both noble and sinister have quested and clashed, crossed swords in the names of darkness and light, and engaged in adventures rich with mystery and majesty.

"Terry's place is at the head of the fantasy world."

—Philip Pullman, author of *The Golden Compass*

Del Rey | TR | March 2008 | 978-0-345-49462-7 | 208 pages | \$13.95

**Reading Level: 5**

### \***Mysteries of the Middle Ages: And the Beginning of the Modern World**

*by Thomas Cahill*

From the bestselling author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, a fascinating look at how medieval thinkers created the origins of modern intellectual movements.

"Intoxicating... Cahill's command of rich historical detail makes medieval cities and their colorful characters come alive." —*Los Angeles Times*

Anchor | TR | March 2008 | 978-0-385-49556-1 | 368 pages | \$19.95

**Reading Level: 12**

### \***Finn**

*by Jon Clinch*

**Teacher's Guide Available**

In this masterful debut by a major new voice in fiction, Jon Clinch takes us on a journey into the history and heart of one of American literature's most brutal and mysterious figures: Huckleberry Finn's father. The result is a deeply original tour de force that springs from Twain's classic novel but takes on a fully realized life of its own. Note that this novel contains some mature subject matter.

Random House | TR | March 2008 | 978-0-8129-7714-1  
320 pages | \$14.00

**Reading Level: 12**

## **Laughing Without an Accent: Adventures of an Iranian American, at Home and Abroad**

by *Firoozeh Dumas*

*Funny in Farsi* author Firoozeh Dumas returns with *Laughing Without an Accent* to tell more stories about her hilarious, warm, and loving family, and the experience of being not just an American, but a citizen of the world.

Whether describing her Iranian family's wonder at her French husband's Christmas traditions, or comparing questionable delicacies in international cuisines, or what it's like to live in the International House college dorm when you're an American after all, Dumas's wit, warmth, and insight illuminate the universality of the human condition, and show how our differences can become our bonds.

Villard | HC | April 2008 | 978-0-345-49956-1 | 240 pages | \$22.00

**Reading Level: 9**

## **Submarine**

by *Joe Dunthorne*

The dryly precocious, soon-to-be-fifteen-year-old hero of this engagingly offbeat debut novel, Oliver Tate is at once a self-styled social scientist and a spy in the baffling adult world surrounding him. Oliver is stealthily (and perhaps a bit more nervously than he'd ever admit) nosing his way forward through the murky and uniquely perilous waters of adolescence. His objectives? Uncovering the secrets behind his parents' teetering marriage, unraveling the mystery that is his alluring and equally quirky classmate Jordana Bevan, and understanding where he fits in among the Zoroastrians, and other mystifying, fascinating beings in his orbit.

Random House | HC | March 2008 | 978-1-4000-6683-4  
320 pages | \$22.00

**Reading Level: 9**

## **\*The Ministry of Special Cases**

by *Nathan Englander*

"Resonates of Singer, yes, but also of Bernard Malamud and Lewis Carroll, plus the Kafka who wrote *The Trial*.... You will wonder how a novel about parents looking for and failing to find their lost son, about a machinery of state determined to abolish not only the future but also the past, can be horrifying and funny at the same time. Somehow... this one is."  
—*Harper's Magazine*

"Englander writes with increasing power and authority .... Gogol, I. B. Singer and Orwell all come to mind, but Englander's book is unique in its layering of Jewish tradition and totalitarian obliteration." —*Publishers Weekly*

Vintage | TR | April 2008 | 978-0-375-70444-4 | 352 pages | \$14.95

**Reading Level: 7**

## **\*A Handbook to Luck**

by *Cristina García*

This is the story of three teenagers in the late 60s from around the globe who are making their way in the world: Enrique Florit, from Cuba, living in southern California with his flamboyant magician father; Marta Claros, getting by in the slums of San Salvador; Leila Rezvani, a well-to-do surgeon's daughter in Tehran.

"Pitch-perfect.... García is still drawn to describe the richness and variety of the immigrant experience.... [But] she also fixes her attention on the fundamentally human desire to make sense of the world, to impose order on the chaos of nature and to rationalize one's mysterious place within it."

—*Chicago Tribune*

Vintage | TR | April 2008 | 978-0-307-27680-3 | 272 pages | \$13.95

**Reading Level: 6**

## **The Translator**

by *Daoud Hari*

### **Teacher's Guide Available**

The young life of Daoud Hari—his friends call him David—has been one of bravery and mesmerizing adventure. He is a living witness to the brutal genocide under way in Darfur. *The Translator* tells the remarkable story of a man who came face-to-face with genocide—time and again risking his own life to fight injustice and save his people.

Random House | HC | March 2008 | 978-1-4000-6744-2  
224 pages | \$23.00

**Reading Level: 7**

## **Genghis, Lords of the Bow**

by *Conn Iggulden*

Conn Iggulden's novels are grand historical tales of conquest and vengeance, cruelty and greatness. Now the acclaimed author of *Genghis: Birth of an Empire* delivers a masterful new novel of the mighty Mongol conqueror—as Genghis Khan sets out to unify an entire continent under his rule.

Delacorte Press | HC | March 2008 | 978-0-385-33952-0  
400 pages | \$25.00

**Reading Level: 6**

## The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments in Science

by George Johnson

From the acclaimed *New York Times* science writer George Johnson, an irresistible book on the ten most fascinating experiments in the history of science—moments when a curious soul posed a particularly eloquent question to nature and received a crisp, unambiguous reply.

“In each of these concise, evocative chapters, Johnson makes the essence of the experiment clear and captures the character of the experimenter.... Pays wonderful homage to the science and scientists that helped create the modern world.”  
—*Kirkus*

Knopf | HC | April 2008 | 978-1-4000-4101-5 | 208 pages | \$22.95

**Reading Level: 9**

## \*Little Heathens

by Mildred Armstrong Kalish

*Little Heathens* offers a loving but realistic portrait of a “heartly-handshake Methodist” family that gave its members a remarkable legacy of kinship, kindness, and remembered pleasures. Recounted in a luminous narrative filled with tenderness and humor, Kalish’s memoir of her childhood shows how the right stuff can make even the bleakest of times seem like “quite a romp.”

Bantam | TR | April 2008 | 978-0-553-38424-6 | 304 pages | \$12.00

**Reading Level: 9**

## \*Near Death on the High Seas: True Stories of Disaster and Survival

Edited by Cecil Kuhne

In *Near Death on the High Seas*, Cecil Kuhne collects some of the most terrifying and astounding experiences of sailors confronting the awesome, raw power of the sea. These tales—filled with everyday heroes and survivors—comprise a riveting and often breathtaking collection of extraordinary stories that show the terrible ferocity of the untamable ocean.

Vintage | TR | March 2008 | 978-0-307-27934-7 | 448 pages | \$14.95

**Reading Level: 11**

## Unaccustomed Earth

by Jhumpa Lahiri

“The tight arc of a story is perfect for Lahiri’s keen sense of life’s abrupt and powerful changes, and her avid eye for telling details. This collection’s five powerful stories and haunting triptych of tales about the fates of two Bengali families in America map the perplexing hidden forces that pull families asunder and undermine marriages.... Lahiri writes insightfully about childhood, while the romantic infatuations and obstacles to true love will captivate teens.” —Donna Seaman, *Booklist* (starred)

Knopf | HC | April 2008 | 978-0-307-26573-9 | 352 pages | \$25.00

**Reading Level: 10**

## \*The Good Husband of Zebra Drive

by Alexander McCall Smith

In the eighth installment of Alexander McCall Smith’s endlessly enjoyable, bestselling series, the judicious Precious Ramotswe comes to discover what is true, stable, and genuine in an ever-shifting world.

“McCall Smith’s fans seem to hunger for the kindness, dignity and humor he celebrates in Mma Ramotswe, and this book will not disappoint them.” —*The Oregonian*

Anchor | TR | March 2008 | 978-1-4000-7572-0 | 240 pages | \$12.95

**Reading Level: 6**

## \*Greetings from Bury Park

by Sarfraz Manzoor

“The book is about many things—the impact of multiculturalism, a coming-of-age story and Nick Hornby-style documentation of musical obsession—[but] it is Manzoor’s relationship with his father, a factory worker who dies when he is 23, that lies at its heart.... Quirky anecdotal detail.... Brilliant humor.... As a musical tribute, this offers an interesting insight into the psyche of an avid fan but it is as a childhood memoir—as painful in parts as it is endearing—that Manzoor’s book really comes to life.”

—*The Independent* (London)

Vintage | TR | April 2008 | 978-0-307-38802-5 | 288 pages | \$13.95

**Reading Level: 7**

## \*After Dark

by Haruki Murakami

“There’s a dreamlike quality to Haruki Murakami’s mesmerizing new novel, [where] amid the alienation are flickers of hopefulness springing from seemingly random, serendipitous human interactions and connections.... Like a latter-day Walker Percy or Albert Camus, Murakami raises questions about perception and existence [and] captures the palpable loneliness and essential unfathomability at the heart of modern life.”

—*The Christian Science Monitor*

Vintage | TR | April 2008 | 978-0-307-27873-9 | 256 pages | \$13.95

**Reading Level: 9**

**\*Zoland Poetry: An Annual of Poems,  
Translations and Interviews, No. 2**

*Edited by Roland Pease*

*Zoland Poetry* is an annual volume of contemporary writing from around the globe, bringing together original English-language poems, translations into English, and interviews with featured poets. What instantly sets *Zoland Poetry* apart from other literary compilations is that the translations appear as an integral part of the contemporary poetry scene. This second edition includes new poems by well-known veterans and new writers of Chinese, Kurdish, Spanish, Bengali, Catalan, Russian, Polish, Japanese, and French backgrounds.

Zoland Books | TR | March 2008 | 978-1-58195-224-7  
248 pages | \$17.00

**\*The Echoing Green: The Untold Story of  
Bobby Thompson, Ralph Branca, and the  
Shot Heard Round the World**

*by Joshua Prager*

"For anyone, like me, who followed baseball during the golden age portrayed here, this wonderful book is an absolute treasure. But it is far more than a book about baseball; it is a beautifully rendered story about the relationship between two men whose lives became permanently intertwined in a matter of minutes one October day more than half a century ago. A master storyteller, Prager captures the reader from beginning to end."

—Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of *A Team of Rivals*

Vintage | TR | March 2008 | 978-0-375-71307-1 | 544 pages | \$15.95

**Reading Level: 7**

**Earth: The Biography**

*by Iain Stewart and John Lynch*

After four and a half billion years, our planet is approaching old age—the perfect time to look back on an extraordinary life. In *Earth: The Biography*, renowned science writers Iain Stewart and John Lynch use groundbreaking imagery and the latest scientific discoveries to tell the epic story of Earth's birth, life stages, and distant future demise.

National Geographic | HC | April 2008 | 978-1-4262-0236-0  
240 pages | \$35.00

**Reading Level: 10**

**\*The Wizard of Menlo Park: How Thomas Alva  
Edison Invented the Modern World**

*by Randall E. Stross*

Starting with the first public demonstrations of the phonograph in 1878 and extending through the development of incandescent light and the first motion-picture cameras, Thomas Edison's name became emblematic of all the wonder and promise of the emerging age of technological marvels. But this critical biography of the man who is arguably the most famous of all Americans provides a fuller view of Edison's life and times—revealing not only how he worked, but how he managed his own fame, becoming the first great celebrity of the modern age.

Three Rivers Press | TR | March 2008 | 978-1-4000-4763-5  
384 pages | \$14.95

**Reading Level: 11**

**Dear First Lady**

*Edited by Dwight Young and Margaret Johnson*

Following on the success of their recent collaboration, *Dear Mr. President*, Dwight Young and Margaret Johnson join forces once again to produce this charming collection of correspondence to and from First Ladies during their time in office. *Dear First Lady* reminds us that ours is a great government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," which entitles us to make our views known to our leaders.

National Geographic | HC | April 2008 | 978-1-4262-0087-8  
208 pages | \$25.00

**Reading Level: 10**

**New in Reference**

**Semantic Antics: How and Why Words Change Meaning**

*by Sol Steinmetz*

A fun, new approach to examining etymology!

Many common English words started out with an entirely different meaning than the one we know today. In *Semantic Antics*, lexicographer Sol Steinmetz takes readers on an in-depth, fascinating journey to learn how hundreds of words have evolved from their first meaning to the meanings used today.

Random House Reference | HC | March 2008 | 978-0-375-42612-4  
288 pages | \$14.95

**\*Build Your Power Vocabulary, Second Edition**

This book will help students, writers, professionals, and anyone else improve their vocabulary. It provides all the necessary tools to expand your knowledge of the English language and speak and write with an enhanced vocabulary. *Build Your Power Vocabulary* has been updated to include all vocabulary, slang and jargon relevant for 2008.

Random House Reference | TR | April 2008 | 978-0-375-72274-5  
400 pages | \$12.95