

## 2009 Texas Lone Star Reading List Annotated List

Bodeen, S.A. ***The Compound***. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. 978-0-312-37015-2 (pub. HC)

Eli's multi-billionaire father has prepared a compound for their family in case of a nuclear attack. When Dad gets word that the attack is eminent, the whole family goes underground. As each year passes their supplies and tolerance for each other dwindle until Eli must decide just how far he will go to survive.

Try these too:

*Finding Daddy* - Louise Plummer

*City of Ember* - Jeanne DuPrau

Brande, Robin. ***Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature***. Knopf, 2007. 978-0-375-84349-5 (pub. HC) 978-0-375-94349-2 (library binding) 978-0-440-24030-3 (pb)

Mena, ostracized at church, home, and school for writing a letter of apology to a gay teen who was harassed into trying to kill himself by her fundamentalist friends, struggles to find her way when new friends and school experiences force her to think about what she really believes.

Try these too:

*Ringside* - Jen Bryant

*Big Mouth Ugly Girl* - Joyce Carol Oates

*Poison Ivy* - Amy Goldman Koss

*The Boy Who Dared* - Susan Campbell Bartoletti

*Freak* - Marcella Pixley

Colfer, Eoin. ***Airman***. Hyperion, 2008. 978-1-42310-750-7 (pub. HC) 978-1-42310-751-4 (pb)

When Conor Broekhart is wrongly imprisoned for a murder he did not commit, he plots his escape and creates a plan for a flying machine which he hopes will help him in his attempt to clear his name.

Try these too:

*The Count of Monte Cristo* - Alexandre Dumas

*Airborn* - Kenneth Oppel

Collins, Suzanne. ***The Hunger Games***. Scholastic, 2008. 978-0-439-02348-1 (pub. HC)

When 16 year old Katniss's beloved younger sister is chosen by lottery to represent her district at the Hunger Games, Katniss steps up to go in her place. There, she and her district partner are pitted against teens from all the districts in Panem in a brutal kill or be killed fight for survival.

Try these too:

*Epic* - Conor Kostick

*Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083* - Andrea White

*The Game of Sunken Places* - M.T. Anderson

*Full Tilt* - Neal Shusterman

*Heir Apparent* - Vivian Vande Velde

Connor, Leslie. ***Waiting for Normal***. Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, 2008. 978-0-06-089088-9 (pub. HC) 978-0-06-089089-6 (library binding)

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Try these too:

*Savvy* - Ingrid Law

*Itch* - Michelle D. Kwasney

*Dovey Coe* - Frances O'Roark Dowell

*How It in Peach Hill* - Marthe Jocelyn

Deuker, Carl. ***Gym Candy***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 978-0-618-77713-6 (pub. HC) 978-0-547-07631-7 (pb)

Mick Johnson will do anything to be the best football player, even take steroids. He knows the risk but nothing is more important than the game.

Try these too:

*Boost* - Kathryn Mackel

*Whale Talk* - Chris Crutcher

Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery***. David Fickling/Random House. 2008. 978-0-375-84976-3 (pub. HC)  
978-0-375-94976-0 (library binding)

When Ted and Kat take their cousin Salim to ride the popular ferris wheel, the London Eye, he gets on but never gets off. How could he have simply vanished? Ted, whose brain is "wired differently," and Kat must put together the clues to figure out what happened Salim.

Try these too:

*The Mystery of the Third Lucretia* - Susan Runholt

*Eye of the Crow* - Shane Peacock

*Enola Holmes* series - Nancy Springer

Freitas, Donna. ***The Possibilities of Sainthood***. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008. 978-0-374-36087-0 (pub. HC)

While regularly petitioning the Vatican to make her the first living saint, fifteen-year-old Antonia Labella prays to assorted patron saints for everything from help with preparing the family's fig trees for a Rhode Island winter to getting her first kiss from the right boy.

Try these too:

*1001 Cranes* - Naomi Hirahara

*Leap of Faith* - Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

*Artichoke's Heart* - Suzanne Supplee

*How to Ditch your Fairy* - Justine Larbalastier

Frost, Helen. ***Diamond Willow***. Farrar, Straus And Giroux, 2008. 978-0-374-31776-8 (pub. HC)

In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

Try these too:

*Love that Dog* - Sharon Creech

*Dogsong* - Gary Paulsen

*Julie of the Wolves* - Jean Craighead George

*Grow* - Juanita Havill

*Home of the Brave* - Katherine Applegate

Gardner, Sally. ***The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution***. Dial, 2008. 978-0-8037-3100-4 (pub. HC)

After performing in a magic show at a private party hosted by a count, considered by some to be the devil, Yann Margoza, a young gypsy, finds himself in a sweeping adventure in which he befriends a lonely heiress, dodges a bullet and gets caught up in the French Revolution.

Try these too:

*I, Coriander* - Sally Gardner

*A Great and Terrible Beauty* - Libba Bray

*The Gypsy Crown* - Kate Forsyth

*A Tale of Two Cities* - Charles Dickens

*Sorcery and Cecelia, or, The enchanted chocolate pot : being the correspondence of two young ladies of quality regarding various magical scandals in London and the country* - Patricia C. Wrede

*The Smile* - Donna Jo Napoli

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Found (The Missing, Book One)***. Simon & Schuster, 2008. 978-1-41695-417-0 (pub. HC)

Jonah and his friend Chip, both adopted 13 years ago, begin receiving mysterious letters claiming they are among the "missing" and in great danger. The boys must figure out who they are and where they came from before it's too late.

Try these too:

*The Girl with the Silver Eyes* - Willo Davis Roberts

*Invitation to the Game* - Monica Hughes

*The Time Travelers* - Linda Buckley-Archer

Herlong, M.H. ***The Great Wide Sea***. Viking, 2008. 978-0-670-06330-7 (pub. HC)

Ben's life is turned upside down when his mother is killed unexpectedly. Much to his surprise and dismay his father sells all their belongings, purchases a boat, and takes Ben and his younger brothers on a year long sailing trip. Things go from bad to worse when the boys wake up one morning to find their father missing from the boat while at sea.

Try these too:

*Hatchet* - Gary Paulsen

*The Young Man and the Sea* - Rodman Philbrick

Higgins, F.E. ***The Black Book of Secrets***. Feiwel and Friends, 2007. 978-0-312-36844-9 (pub. HC)

After narrowly escaping a horrible fate at the hands of his cruel parents, Ludlow Fitch finds himself in the company of a mysterious pawnbroker who trades people's deepest, darkest secrets for cash. As Ludlow works as the pawnbroker's apprentice, he begins to trust him. But he must decide if he can trust the pawnbroker enough to share his own dark secrets.

Try these too:

*The Bone Magician* -- F.E. Higgins

*Foundling (Monster Blood Tattoo, Book One)* - D.M. Cornish

*Fly By Night* - Frances Hardinge

Meehl, Brian. ***Suck It Up***. Delacorte, 2008. 978-0-385-73300-7 (pub. Hc) 978-0-385-90321-9 (library binding)

Morning McCobb, recent graduate of the IV League and a vegan vampire, is on a mission to change the public perception of vampires from bloodthirsty killers to something more heroic.

Try these too:

*The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites* - Heather Brewer

*Sucks to Be Me* - Kimberly Pauley

Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***. Henry Holt, 2008. 978-0-8050-7668-4 (pub. HC)

After an accident and year-long coma, seventeen-year-old Jenna awakens to a life she does not remember. Her parents describe the past, but the memories are slow to come. What does come are more questions: Who is Jenna Fox? And, what really happened after the accident?

Try these too:

*Eva* - Peter Dickinson

*Airhead* - Meg Cabot

*Turnabout* - Margaret Peterson Haddix

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. ***the dead and the gone***. Harcourt, 2008. 978-0-15-206311-5 (pub. HC)

After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City.

Try these too:

*life as we knew it* - Susan Beth Pfeffer

*Gone* - Michael Grant

*Alas Babylon* - Pat Frank

*The Other Side of the Island* - Allegra Goodman

Shusterman, Neal. ***Antsy Does Time***. Dutton, 2008. 978-0-525-47825-6 (pub. HC)

When Antsy discovers that classmate Gunnar is suffering from a terminal illness, he offers to give Gunnar a month of his life. Others want to donate months, and Antsy starts trading time like stocks on Wall Street! All of this plus the attention of Gunnar's gorgeous older sister, stressful hours at his parents' restaurant, and a visit from an overbearing aunt create one wild ride for Antsy Bonano!

Try these too:

*The Schwa was Here* - Neal Shusterman

*Son of the Mob* - Gordon Korman

*Go Big or Go Home* - Will Hobbs

*The Big Game of Everything* - Chris Lynch

Shusterman, Neal. **Unwind**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. 978-1-41691-204-0 (pub. HC)

In a futuristic world where parents can have their children unwound between the ages of 13 and 18, three teenagers on their way to a harvest camp escape this fate and are swept into an underground network that helps Unwinds fight for their very survival.

Try these too:

*The Declaration* - Gemma Malley

*The Giver* - Lois Lowry

*Truesight* - David Stahler

Smith, Roland. **I,Q.: Independence Hall**. Sleeping Bear, 2008. 978-1-58536-325-4 (pb)

Q and his new stepsister Angela are following their rock star parents on tour. But someone is following them.

Try these too:

*Stormbreaker* - Anthony Horowitz

*I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You* - Ally Carter

*H.I.V.E. : Higher Institute of Villainous Education* - Mark Walden

*Chasing Vermeer* - Blue Bailliett

Ziegler, Jennifer. **How Not to be Popular**. Delacorte, 2008. 978-0-385-73465-3 (pub. HC) 978-0-385-90463-6 (library binding)

When Maggie moves with her parents yet again, she vows to avoid making friends this time so she won't experience heartbreak when she must leave them behind. She launches Operation Avoid Friends at her new high school in Austin, but the results are not at all what she expects.

Try these too:

*Confessions of a Serial Kisser* - Wendelin Van Draanen

*Zen and the Art of Faking It* - Jordan Sonnenblick

*All Shook Up* - Shelley Pearsall

The Texas Lone Star list is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table. The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source.

The annotated 2009 Lone Star Reading list and the past Lone Star Reading Lists are located at: <http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/lonestarlists.html>



## **Celebrating 20 Years of Lone Star**

