

FMHS Lit Circle Sets

(we have 5 of each unless some haven't been returned)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Call#</u>	<u>Summary</u>
All Quiet on the Western Front	Remarque, Erich Maria	FIC REM	In this realistic depiction of the lives of ordinary German soldiers Paul Baumer and his school chums are encouraged to enlist by their bombastic, slogan-chanting teacher, but they quickly learn that actual war is more gore than glory, as they crawl through mud, huddle in trenches, suffer the ordeal of frenzied hand-to-hand combat and dodge screaming shells during World War I.
Ana's Story: a journey of hope	Bush, Jenna	362.196	Jenna Bush presents a nonfiction account of Ana, a young Latin American mother, who shared with Bush the loss of her parents to AIDS, abuse from her grandmother and aunt, and of her own battle with AIDS.
The Angel Experiment	Patterson, James	FIC PAT	After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.
The Art of Racing in the Rain	Stein, Garth	FIC STE	Nearing the end of his life, Enzo, a dog with a philosopher's soul, tries to bring together the family, pulled apart by a three year custody battle between daughter Zoe's maternal grandparents and her father Denny, a race car driver.
Bee Season	Goldberg, Myla	FIC GOL	Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, expects never to fit into her gifted family: her father, Saul, absorbed in his study of Jewish mysticism; her brother, Aaron, the vessel of his father's spiritual ambitions; and her brilliant but distant lawyer-mom, Miriam. But when Eliza sweeps her school and district spelling bees in quick succession, Saul takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness. In this altered reality, Saul inducts her into his hallowed study and lavishes upon her the attention previously reserved for Aaron, who in his displacement embarks upon a lone quest for spiritual fulfillment. When Miriam's secret life triggers a familial explosion, it is Eliza who must order the chaos.
The Bluest Eye	Morrison, Toni	FIC MOR	The story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, a black girl in an America whose love for its blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, who prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.
The Book Thief	Zusak, Markus	FIC ZUS	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	Boyne, John	FIC BOY	Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.
Cannery Row	Steinbeck, John	FIC STE	In a rundown California town where the inhabitants struggle to survive and better themselves, a romance develops between a quiet marine biologist and a runaway supporting herself through prostitution.
The Chosen	Potok, Chaim	FIC POT	Set in New York toward the end of WWII, this is the story of two teenage Jewish boys, one the son of a Zionist, the other of a Russian Hassidic. They turn to each other in a fine show of male bonding.

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Cold Mountain	Frazier, Charles	FIC FRA	Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, Inman, a Confederate soldier, decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains and to Ada, the woman he loved there years before. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, both helpful and malign. At the same time, Ada is trying to revive her father's derelict farm and learn to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away.
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	Haddon, Mark	FIC HAD	Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.
Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood	Wells, Rebecca	FIC WEL	Siddalee Walker, a successful theater director, is thrown into a void of uncertainty when she has a falling out with her mother, Vivi, over a New York Times article in which Vivi is characterized as an abusive parent, and the Ya-Yas, Vivi's gang of lifelong girlfriends, conspire to restore the mother-daughter relationship.
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathan Safran	FIC FOE	Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is a precocious Francophile who idolizes Stephen Hawking and plays the tambourine extremely well. He's also a boy struggling to come to terms with his father's death in the World Trade Center attacks. As he searches New York City for the lock that fits a mysterious key he left behind, Oskar discovers much more than he could have imagined.
Feed	Anderson, M.T.	FIC AND	In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. So says Titus, a teenager whose ability to read, write, and even think for himself has been almost completely obliterated by his "feed," a transmitter implanted directly into his brain. Feeds are a crucial part of life for Titus and his friends. After all, how else would they know where to party on the moon, how to get bargains at Weatherbee & Crotch, or how to accessorize the mysterious lesions everyone's been getting? But then Titus meets Violet, a girl who cares about what's happening to the world and challenges everything Titus and his friends hold dear. A girl who decides to fight the feed.
The Freedom Writers Diary	Freedom Writers	305.235 FRE	The story of how young English teacher Erin Gruwell confronted the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance in her classroom, and features excerpts from the diaries of her students, now known as The Freedom Writers.
Geeks: how two lost boys rode the Internet out of Idaho	Katz, Jon	338.7 KAT	Tells the true story of Jesse and Eric, nineteen-year-old roommates in the small town of Caldwell, Idaho who changed their lives and built a new future for themselves with the power of the Internet.
The Geography of Bliss: one grump's search for the happiest places in the world	Weiner, Eric	910.4 WEI	Part foreign affairs discourse, part humor, and part twisted self-help guide, this book takes the reader from America to Iceland to India in search of happiness, or, in the crabby author's case, moments of "un-unhappiness." The book uses a mixture of travel, psychology, science and humor to investigate not what happiness is, but where it is. Are people in Switzerland happier because it is the most democratic country in the world? Do citizens of Singapore benefit psychologically by having their options limited by the government? Is the King of Bhutan a visionary for his initiative to calculate Gross National Happiness? Why is Asheville, North Carolina, so darn happy? NPR correspondent Weiner answers those questions and many others, offering travelers of all moods some interesting new ideas for sunnier destinations and dispositions.

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A Girl Named Zippy: growing up small in Mooreland, Indiana	Kimmel, Haven	B KIM	The author describes her small-town childhood in Indiana, remembering her eventful 1960s and '70s family life in fondness.
Girl with a Pearl Earring	Chevalier, Tracy	FIC CHE	Chevalier transports readers to a bygone time and place in this richly imagined portrait of the young woman who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings. "Girl with a Pearl Earring" is the story of 16-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius, even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil. An Independent Bestseller Winner of the 2000 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award! Tracy Chevalier transports readers to a bygone time and place in this richly-imagined portrait of the young woman who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings. History and fiction merge seamlessly in this luminous novel about artistic vision and sensual awakening. Girl with a Pearl Earring tells the story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil.
The Glass Castle: a memoir	Walls, Jeannette	B WAL	The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society	Shaffer, Mary Ann	FIC SHA	January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends--and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society--born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island--boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all.
Hoop Dreams: a true story of hardship and triumph	Joravsky, Ben	920 JOR	A biography of Arthur Agee and William Gates, two promising high school basketball players in Chicago whose experiences were captured in the documentary film "Hoop Dreams".
The Hot Rock: the first Dortmund novel	Westlake, Donald E.	FIC WES	Recently released from prison, John Dortmund immediately reunites with old friends and begins a plan to steal a large emerald belonging to a small African nation.
The Hunger Games	Collins, Suzanne	FIC COL	In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.
I Am the Messenger	Zusak, Markus	FIC ZUS	After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.
Impossible	Werlin, Nancy	FIC WER	When seventeen-year old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes to break the curse she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born in order to save them both.

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Jane Eyre	Bronte, Charlotte	FIC BRO	When a penniless governess falls in love with the brooding master of Thornfield, she is unaware of the tragic events that will follow.
Last of the Breed	L'Amour, Louis	FIC LAM	A U.S. Air Force major's experimental aircraft is forced down over the Bering Sea by Russians. He escapes from the Soviet prison camp where he is held and then must cross the Siberian wilderness.
Life As We Knew It	Pfeffer, Susan Beth	FIC PFE	Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
Life of Pi	Martel, Yann	FIC MAR	Martel's novel tells the story of Pi--short for Piscine--an unusual boy raised in a zoo in India. Pi's father decides to move the family to live in Canada and sell the animals to the great zoos of America. The ship taking them across the Pacific sinks and Pi finds himself the sole human survivor on a lifeboat with a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra with a broken leg and Bengal tiger called Richard Parker. Life of Pi brings together many themes including religion, zoology, fear, and sheer tenacity. This is a funny, wise, and highly original look at what it means to be human.
Little Brother	Doctorow, Cory	FIC DOC	After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.
A Long Way Gone: memoirs of a boy soldier	Beah, Ishmael	B BEA	This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. Ishmael Beah, now 25 years old, tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts
Peace Like a River	Enger, Leif	FIC ENG	Through the voice of 11-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy obsessed with cowboys living in 1960s Minnesota, the story is told of the Land family's cross-country search for Reuben's outlaw older brother, who has been charged with murder.
The Perfect Storm	Junger, Sebastian	974.45 Jun	It was the storm of the century, boasting waves over one hundred feet high - a tempest created by so rare a combination of factors that meteorologists deemed it "the perfect storm." When it struck in October 1991, there was virtually no warning. "She's comin' on, boys, and she's comin' on strong," radioed Captain Billy Tyne of the Andrea Gail off the coast of Nova Scotia, and soon afterward the boat and its crew of six disappeared without a trace."
The Road	McCarthy, Cormac	FIC MCC	In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity.

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The Secret Life of Bees	Kidd, Sue Monk	FIC KID	Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina, at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.
A Separate Peace	Knowles, John	FIC KNO	Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, this story is a parable of the dark side of adolescence. What happens one summer between Gene, a lonely, introverted intellectual, and Phineas, a handsome, taunting daredevil athlete, banishes the innocence of the boys and their world.
Shoeless Joe	Kinsella, W.P.	FIC KIN	An Iowa farmer builds a baseball stadium in his cornfield, hoping his hero, Shoeless Joe Jackson, will play in it. (made into movie "Field of Dreams")
Slaughterhouse-five, or The Children's Crusade	Vonnegut, Kurt	FIC VON	Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist classic "Slaughterhouse-five" introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes "unstuck in time" after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut's) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden. "Slaughterhouse-five" is not only Vonnegut's most powerful book, it is also as important as any written since 1945. Like "Catch-22", it fashions the author's experiences in the Second World War into an eloquent and deeply funny plea against butchery in the service of authority. "Slaughterhouse-five" boasts the same imagination, humanity, and gleeful appreciation of the absurd found in Vonnegut's other works, but the book's basis in rock-hard, tragic fact gives it unique poignancy and humor.
The Soloist: a lost dream, an unlikely friendship, and the redemptive power of music.	Lopez, Steve	787.2 LOP	The true story of Nathaniel Ayers, a musician who becomes schizophrenic and homeless, and his friendship with Steve Lopez, the Los Angeles columnist who discovers and writes about him in the newspaper.
Son of the Mob	Korman, Gordon	FIC KOR	Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.
Stuck in Neutral	Trueman, Terry	FIC TRU	Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.
Tangerine	Bloor, Edward	FIC BLO	Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
The Teacher's Funeral: a comedy in three parts	Peck, Richard	FIC PEC	In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."
The Power of One	Courtenay, Bryce	FIC COU	A boy in South Africa during World War II, Peekay turns to two men, one black and one white, to show him how to find the courage to dream, to succeed, to triumph over a world when all seems lost.

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The Things They Carried	O'Brien, Tim	FIC OBR	A collection of related fiction short stories with recurring characters, interwoven plot and themes told by a foot soldier retelling his experiences in the Vietnam War.
A Thousand Splendid Suns	Hosseini, Khaled	FIC HOS	Afghan women Mariam and Laila grow close despite their nearly twenty-year age difference and initial rivalry, as they suffer at the hands of a common enemy -- their abusive, much older husband, Rasheed.
Three Cups of Tea: one man's mission to promote peace - one school at a time	Mortenson, Greg	371.822 MOR	Greg Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children.
The Host	Meyer, Stephanie	FIC MEY	The Earth has been invaded by a species that take over the minds of their human hosts while leaving their bodies intact - most of humanity has succumbed.
Marly and Me	Grogan, John	636.752 GRO	The story of a family in the making and the wonderously neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life.
The God of Animals	Kyle, Aryn	FIC KYL	Sixth grader Alice Winston is having a rough year. Her older sister elopes. Her depressed mother won't get out of bed. Her father struggles to save their faltering horse ranch. And Alice's school pal drowns. Caught in a dizzying adult world, Alice soon faces challenges that threaten to shatter her dreams and family. (author grew up in Grand Junction)