

What We Read: The I Hear America Reading List of Lists

From I Hear America Reading: Why We Read - What We Read

Jim Burke (Heinemann 1999)

Ten Books for People Who Think the World is Absurd

1. The Basketball Diaries, Jim Carroll
2. Bonfire of the Vanities, Tom Wolfe
3. Cat's Cradle, Kurt Vonnegutt
4. Catch-22, Joseph Heller
5. Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (or other Robbins book)
6. Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (and other books in the trilogy), Douglass Adams
7. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey
8. Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie
9. Scoop, Evelyn Waugh
10. V, Thomas Pynchon

Ten Books for the Adventurous

1. Hatchet, Gary Paulsen
2. Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer
3. Seven Summits, Dick Bass and Frank Wells (with Rick Ridgeway)
4. Shooting the Boh: A Woman's Voyage Down the Wildest River in Borneo, Tracy Johnston
5. The Mosquito Coast, Paul Theroux
6. The Perfect Storm, Sebastian Junger
7. The Right Stuff, Tom Wolfe
8. Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1,700 Miles of Australian Outback, Robyn Davidson
9. Travelers' Tales: The Best of Travelers' Tales, Larry Habegger (editor)
10. Treasure, Clive Cussler

Ten Books to Read Aloud in the Car While Traveling

1. A Summer Life, Gary Soto
2. Baseball and Summer Squash, by Don Graves
3. Dispatches, Michael Herr
4. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Hunter S. Thompson
5. James and the Giant Peach, Roald Dahl
6. Life on the Mississippi, Mark Twain
7. Little House on the Prairie, Laura Ingles Wilder
8. Rising Tide, John Barry
9. The Education of Little Tree, Forrest Carter
10. The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West, Patricia Nelson Limerick

Ten Books Worth Reading Aloud to Your Children

1. A Child's Christmas in Wales, Dylan Thomas
2. Fairy tales (Pantheon series)
3. Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown
4. Green Eggs and Ham, Dr. Seuss
5. Little House on the Prairie, Laura Ingles Wilder
6. Polar Express, Chris Van Allsburg
7. Taxi Dog, Debra Barracca
8. The Stinky Cheese Man, John Scieszka
9. The Velveteen Rabbit, Margery Williams
10. Where the Sidewalk Ends, Shel Silverstein

Ten Books about America

1. A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America, Ron Takaki
2. American Dreams, Studs Terkel
3. Blue Highways, William Least Heat Moon
4. Citizen Soldiers, Stephen Ambrose
5. Jasmine, Bharati Mukherjee
6. The Jungle, Upton Sinclair
7. Lies My Teacher Told Me, Gerald Eskelin
8. Revising America, Frances Fitzgerald
9. Saturday Night: In America, Susan Orlean
10. The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap, Stephanie Coontz

Ten Books about Books

1. A History of Reading, Alberto Manguel
2. Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader, Anne Fadiman
3. Genesis: As It Is Written, David Rosenberg
4. Great Books, David Denby
5. How Reading Changed My Life, Anna Quindlen
6. Imagining Characters, A.S. Byatt and Iris Sordre
7. Ruined by Reading, Lynne Schwartz
8. The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart, Gomes
9. The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in the Electronic Age, Sven Birkerts
10. The Most Wonderful Books: Writers on Discovering the Pleasures of Reading, Michael Dorris and Emilie Buchwald

Ten Books of Booklists

1. 500 Great Books by Women: A Reader's Guide, Erica Bauermeister, et al.
2. The Book Group Book, Ellen Slezak
3. Books for a Small Planet: A Multicultural-Intercultural Bibliography for Young English Language Learners, Dorothy S. Brown
4. Great Books for Girls: More than 600 Books to Inspire Today's Girls and Tomorrow's Women, Kathleen Odean
5. A Lifetime Reading Plan, Clifton Fadiman
6. New York Public Library's Books of the Century, ed. E Diefendorf
7. The 100 Most Influential Books Ever Written: The History of Thought from Ancient Times to Today, Martin Seymour-Smith
8. The Reading Group Book: The Complete Guide to Starting and Sustaining a Reading Group, With Annotated Lists of 250 Titles for Provocative Discussion, Davis Laskin and Holly Hughes
9. Strong Souls Singing: African American Books for Our Daughters and Our Sisters and Spirited Minds: African American Books for Our Sons and Our Brothers, edited by Archie Givens.
10. The Western Canon, Harold Bloom

Ten Books a Teenage Boy Would Want to Read

1. A River Runs Through It, Norman McLean
2. Always Running, Luis Rodriguez
3. Dogsong, Gary Paulsen
4. Enders Game, Orson Scott Card
5. Lord of the Rings, J.R.R. Tolkien
6. Makes Me Want to Holler, Nathan McCall
7. Rule of the Bone, Russell Banks
8. The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien
9. This Boy's Life, Tobias Wolff
10. Way Past Cool, Jess Mowry

Ten New Children's Books Anyone Would Love (But Kids Especially)

1. Amanda Pig and Her Best Friend Lollipop, Jean Van Leeuwen
2. Bathtime for Biscuit, Alyssa Capucilli
3. Bugs, Beetles, and Butterflies, Harriet Ziefert
4. Can You Guess Where We're Going?, Elvira Woodruff
5. Forest, Laura Godwin
6. Marianne's Story, Alike
7. Mr. Putter and Tabby Toot the Horn, Cynthia Rylant
8. Sam the Zomboni Man, James Stevenson
9. Thank You, Mr. Falker, Patricia Polacco
10. The Animal Rescue Club, John Himmelman

Ten Books We Should All Read before Childhood Ends

1. A Wrinkle in Time, Madeline L'Engle
2. Charlotte's Web, E.B. White
3. Green Eggs and Ham, Dr. Seuss
4. Indian in the Cupboard
5. Little House on the Prairie, Laura Ingalls Wilder
6. The BFG, Roald Dahl
7. The Box Car Children
8. The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis
9. The Secret Garden
10. The Wind in the Willows

Ten Books about Cultures

1. A Turn in the South, V.S. Naipaul
2. Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History, Robert Kaplan
3. From Beirut to Jerusalem, Thomas L. Friedman
4. Genesis (Memory of Fire Trilogy, Part 1), Eduardo H. Galeano
5. How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe, Thomas A. Cahill
6. India: A Million Mutinies How, V.S. Naipaul
7. My Traitor's Heart: A South African Exile Returns to Face His Country, His Tribe, and His Conscience, Rian Milan
8. Pictures from the Water Trade: Adventures of a Westerner in Japan, John David Morley
9. Tales of the City, Armistead Maupin
10. The Gift of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels, Thomas A. Cahill

Ten Books for a Desert Island

1. The Annotated Alice
2. Collected Works of Shakespeare (Harold Bloom's choice)
3. The Divine Comedy (Pinsky translation), Dante Alighieri
4. Finnegans Wake, James Joyce
5. The Histories, Herodotus
6. King James Bible (William Faulkner's choice)
7. The Odyssey, Homer (Eagles translation)
8. Waiting for Godot, Samuel Beckett
9. Walden, Henry David Thoreau
10. Wherever You Go, There You Are, Jon Kabat-Zinn

Ten Essential Books about Education

1. American Education (3-volume history), Lawrence Cremin
2. Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education, Martha Nussbaum
3. Horace's Hope: What Works for the American High School, TheodoreSizer
4. Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez, Richard Rodriguez
5. Releasing the Imagination, Maxine Greene
6. Savage Inequalities, Jonathon Kozol
7. School Girls: Young Girls, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence Gap, Peggy Orenstein
8. The End of Education, Neil Postman
9. The Padeia Proposal, Mortimer Adler
10. The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them, E.D. Hirsch

Ten Best Films that Began as Books

1. A River Runs Through It, Normal McLean
2. Apocalypse Now, Joseph Conrad (from Heart of Darkness)
3. Cry, the Beloved Country, Alan Paton
4. Last of the Mohicans, James Fenimore Cooper
5. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey
6. The Color Purple, Alice Walker
7. The Dead, James Joyce
8. The English Patient, Michael Ondaatje
9. The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco
10. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Ten Books You Can Read Today about the Future

1. Being Digital, Nicholas Negroponte
2. Brave New World, Aldus Huxley
3. Children of Men, P.D. James
4. The Earthsea Trilogy, Ursula LeGuin
5. The Giver, Lois Lowry
6. Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood
7. Kindred, Octavia Butler
8. Left Behind, Rim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins
9. Snow Crash, Neal Stephenson
10. The Popcorn Report: Faith Popcorn on the Future of Your Company, Your World, and Your Life, Faith Popcorn

Twenty Books a Teenage Girl Would Want to Read

1. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith
2. Anne of Green Gables, L.M. Montgomery
3. Anywhere But Here, Mona Simpson
4. Bastard out of Carolina, Dorothy Allison
5. Betsey Brown, Ntozake Shange
6. Black Ice, Lorene Cary
7. Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson
8. Coffee Will Make You Black, April Sinclair
9. Dharma Girl, Chelsea Cain
10. Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, Rebecca Wells
11. Ellen Foster, Kaye Gibbons
12. Forever, Judy Blume
13. Girl Interrupted, Suzanne Kaysen
14. How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent, Julie Alvarez
15. Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte
16. Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
17. Reviving Ophelia, Mary Pipher
18. The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
19. She's Come Undone, Wally Lamb
20. When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmeralda Santiago

Ten Recommendations for The Great American Novel

(Note: Everyone who nominated a title said "The Great American Novel" has yet to be written.)

1. Absalom! Absalom! William Faulkner
2. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
3. Beloved, Toni Morrison
4. Bonfire of the Vanities, Tom Wolfe
5. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
6. The Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
7. Moby Dick, Herman Melville
8. Sometimes a Great Notion, Ken Kesey
9. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
10. Uncle Tom's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe

Ten Books to Help High School English Teachers Triumph

1. A Measure of Success, Fran Claggett
2. Creating Writers, Vicki Spandel and Richard Stiggins
3. Curriculum as Conversation, Arthur Applebee
4. Daybook of Critical Reading and Writing (series: 9-12), Fran Claggett, Louann Reid, Ruth Vinz
5. Literature as Exploration (Fifth Edition), Louise Rosenblatt
6. Questioning the Author: An Approach to Enhancing Student Engagement with Text, Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown, Rebecca L. Hamilton, and Linda Kucan
7. Reading Engagement: Motivating Readers Through Integrated Instruction, John T. Guthrie and Alan Wigfield (editors)
8. The English Teacher's Companion: A Complete Guide to Classroom, Curriculum, and the Profession, Jim Burke
9. What a Writer Needs, Ralph Fletcher
10. Write for College: A Student Handbook, Patrick Sebranek, Verne Meyer, and Dave Kemper

Ten Historical Novels You'll Love

1. Dead Man's Walk, Larry McMurtry
2. Burr, Gore Vidal
3. The Eight, Katherine Neville
4. Gospel, Wilton Barnhardt
5. Hawaii, James Michener
6. Killer Angels, Michael Shaara
7. Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie
8. The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco
9. Schindler's List, Thomas Keneally
10. Trinity, Leon Uris

Ten Books to Make You Laugh Out Loud

1. A Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving
2. Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll
3. Chicana Falsa, Michelle Serros
4. Heartburn, Nora Ephron
5. Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year, Annie Lamott
6. Our Hearts Were Young and Gay, Camelia O. Skinner and Emily Kimborough
7. Portnoy's Complaint, Philip Roth
8. Seinfeld, Jerry Seinfeld
9. The Complete Prose of Woody Allen, Woody Allen
10. The Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 3/4, by Sue Townsend

The Cultural Literacy List

1. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
2. Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger
3. Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller
4. The Diary of Anne Frank
5. Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald
6. Hamlet, Shakespeare
7. The Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
8. On the Road, Jack Kerouac
9. The Odyssey, Homer (Eagles translation)
10. The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne

Ten Books about Love

1. Beloved, Toni Morrison
2. The English Patient, Michael Ondaatje
3. Like Water for Chocolate, Laura Esquivel
4. Little Altars Everywhere, Rebecca Wells
5. Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
6. Love Medicine, Louise Erdrich
7. The Riders, Tim Winton
8. Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson
9. Summer of My German Soldier, Bette Greene
10. The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

Ten Books for a Mad Mad Mad World

1. A Bright Red Scream: Self Mutilation and the Language of Pain, Marilee Strong
2. Amphigorey, by Edward Gorey
3. Black Dahlia, James Ellroy
4. Brothers and Keepers, John Edgar Wideman
5. Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam, Bernard Edelman and Paul McCarthy (editors)
6. Girl Interrupted, Suzanne Kaysen
7. Rule of the Bone, Russell Banks
8. The Stand, Stephen King
9. Trainspotting, Irvine Welsh
10. The World According to Garp, John Irving

Ten Books to Help Teachers Survive Middle School Language Arts

1. A Fine Young Man: What Parents, Mentors, and Educators Can Do to Shape Adolescent Boys into Exceptional Men, Michael Gurian
2. After THE END, Barry Lane
3. Daybook of Critical Reading and Writing (8th Grade Edition), Fran Claggett, Louann Reid, Ruth Vinz
4. Drawing Your Own Conclusions, Fran Claggett and Joan Brown
5. In the Middle (Second Edition), Nancie Atwell
6. School Girls, Peggy Orenstein
7. Seeking Diversity, Linda Rief
8. The Dragon Apparent, Louran Lewis
9. Words Their Way, Donald Bear and Shane Templeton
10. Writers in Training, Rebekah Kaplan

Ten Authors for Mystery Lovers

1. James Lee Burke
2. Agatha Christie
3. Colin Dexter
4. Elizabeth George
5. Batya Gur
6. Tony Hillerman
7. P.D. James
8. John LaCarre
9. Walter Mosley
10. Janwillem Van der Weterling

Ten Nobel Prize Winners to Read

1. Nadine Gordimer
2. Seamus Heaney
3. Ernest Hemingway
4. Eugene O'Neill
5. Gabriel Garcia Marquez
6. Czeslaw Milosz
7. Toni Morrison
8. Kenzaburo Oe
9. Wislawa Szymborska
10. W.B. Yeats

Ten Books for Those in Pain or Despair

1. Anything by Dr. Seuss
2. Bastard out of Carolina, Dorothy Allison
3. Care of the Soul, Thomas Moore
4. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl
5. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, Jean-Dominique Bauby
6. Feeling Good, Dr. Burns
7. How Stella Got Her Groove Back, Terry McMillan
8. The Book of Psalms
9. Their Eyes Are Watching God, Zora Neal Hurston
10. Under the Eye of the Clock, Christopher Nolan

Ten Books for Parents

1. Get Out of My Life, But First Could You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall?: A Parent's Guide to the New Teenager, Anthony Wolf
2. Letters from Dad: Lessons and Love, John Broome and Jack Broome
3. Lunchbox Love Notes: Notes for a Child (Love Notes), Gary Johnson
4. Operating Instructions: A Journal of My First Year, Annie Lamott
5. Raising a Daughter: Parents and the Awakening of a Healthy Woman, Jeanne Elium and Don Elium
6. Raising a Son: Parents and the Making of a Healthy Man, Don Elium and Jeanne Elium
7. Raising Lifelong Learners, Lucy Calkins
8. Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls, Mary Pipher
9. The Wonder of Boys, Michael Gurian
10. Touchpoints, T. Berry Brazelton

Ten Books about Fascinating People

1. An American Requiem: God, My Father, and the War that Came Between Us, James Carroll
2. And the Band Played On, Randy Shilts
3. Daisy Bates in the Desert, Julia Blackburn
4. Life and Death in Shanghai, Nien Cheng
5. Mabel McKay: Weaving the Dream (Portraits of American Genius), Greg Sarris
6. Nobody Nowhere
7. Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman, Richard Feynman
8. The American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson, by Joseph Ellis
9. The Good Nazi: The Life and Lies of Albert Speer, Dan Van Der Vat
10. Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man, Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Ten Books for the Philosophical

1. A History of Knowledge: Past, Present, and Future, Charles Van Doren
2. Cloister Walk, Kathleen Norris
3. Collected Fictions, Jorge Luis Borges
4. Man's Search for Meaning, Viktor Frankl
5. Philosophical Investigations, Phillip Kerr
6. Six Great Ideas, Mortimer Adler
7. Sophie's World, Jostein Gaardner
8. The Little Prince, Antoine De Saint-Exupery
9. The Proper Study of Mankind: An Anthology of Essays, Isaiah Berlin
10. The Second Sex, Simone de Beauvoir

Ten Books about Place

1. A Year in Provence, Peter Mayle
2. An Area of Darkness, V.S. Naipaul
3. Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History, Robert Kaplan
4. Big Dreams: Into the Heart of California, Bill Barich
5. Dakota: A Spiritual Geography, Kathleen Norris
6. Labyrinth of Solitude, Octavio Paz
7. Lonesome Dove, Larry McMurtry
8. Midaq Alley, Naghib Mafouz
9. Patagonia, Bruce Chatwin
10. San Francisco Stories, John Miller

Ten Poets I Could Not Live Without

1. Lucille Clifton
2. Jack Gilbert
3. Li Young Lee
4. Philip Levine
5. Antonio Machado
6. Czeslaw Milosz
7. Pablo Neruda
8. Ranier Maria Rilke
9. William Stafford
10. Wallace Stevens

Ten Books to Turn to When You Are Trying to Forget that Huge Stack of Essays Due Back on Monday

1. Anguished English, Richard Lederer
2. Charing Cross Road, Helene Hanff
3. Depth Takes a Holiday: Essays from Lesser Los Angeles, Sandra Tsing Loh
4. Essays that Worked, Boykin/Curry
5. Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader, Anne Fadiman
6. It Was a Dark and Stormy Night, Scott Rice
7. Mother Tongue, Bill Bryson
8. Mrs. Fields Cookie Book, Debbie Fields
9. The Rants, Dennis Miller
10. Video Nights in Katmandu, Pico Iyer

Ten Books for the Traveler

1. Blue Highways, William Least Heat Moon
2. Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time, Dava Sobel
3. On Persephone's Island (A Sicilian Journal) Mary Taylor Simeti
4. On the Road, Jack Kerouac
5. Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train Through China, Paul Theroux
6. Songlines, Bruce Chatwin
7. The Stones of Florence, Mary McCarthy
8. Transylvania and Beyond, Devla Murphy
9. Travelers' Tales: A Woman's World, Marybeth Bond (editor)
10. Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy, Frances Mayes

Ten Books for a Rainy Day

1. Babeltower, A.S. Byatt
2. Beach Music, Pat Conroy
3. Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier
4. Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh, Vincent Van Gogh (Irving and Jean Stone, editors)
5. Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift
6. Letters to a Young Poet, Ranier Maria Rilke
7. The Notebook, Nicholas Sparks
8. One Hundred Years of Solitude
9. Practical Magic, Alice Hoffman
10. The Rain God, Arturo Islas

Ten Books about Reading

1. Beginning to Read: Thinking and Learning about Print, Marilyn Jager Adams
2. Changing Our Minds: Negotiating English and Literacy, Miles Myers
3. I Hear America Reading: Why We Read * What We Read, Jim Burke
4. It's Never Too Late: Leading Adolescents to Lifelong Literacy, Janet Allen
5. Mosaic of Thought: Teaching Comprehension in a Reader's Workshop, Ellin Oliver Keene and Susan Zimmerman
6. Reading Engagement: Motivating Readers through Integrated Instruction, ed. John T. Guthrie and Alan Wigfield
7. Reading Lessons, Gerry Coles
8. Reading Teacher's Book of Lists, Edward Fry
9. The Literacy Crisis: False Claims, Real Solutions, Jeff McQuillan
10. The Read-Aloud Handbook, Jim Trelease

Ten Books You Plan to Read When You Retire (But Probably Won't)

1. Finnegans Wake, James Joyce
2. Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
3. Les Misérables, Victor Hugo
4. Moby Dick, Herman Melville
5. Remembrance of Things Past, Marcel Proust
6. Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph, T.E. Lawrence
7. The Bible
8. The Collected Dialogues of Plato
9. The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich
10. War and Peace, Tolstoy

Ten Books for the Rugged Individualist

1. The Border Trilogy (All the Pretty Horses, The Crossing, Cities of the Plains), Cormac McCarthy
2. China Men, Maxine Hong Kingston
3. Cowboys Are My Weakness, Pam Houston
4. Dalva, Jim Harrison
5. Even Cowgirls Get the Blues, Tom Robbins
6. Fountainhead, Ayn Rand
7. The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood
8. The Monkey Wrench Gang, Edward Abbey
9. Undaunted Courage, Stephen Ambrose
10. Walden, Henry David Thoreau

Ten Books for the Scientist in Us All

1. Bully for Brontosaurus: Reflections in Natural History, Stephen Jay Gould
2. Composing a Life, Mary Catherine Bateson
3. Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge, Edward O. Wilson
4. Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meanings of Life, Daniel C. Dennett
5. The Demon-Haunted World, Carl Sagan
6. Good Benito, Alan Lightman
7. The Hot Zone, Richard Preston
8. Lives of a Cell, Lewis Thomas
9. The Star Thrower, Loren Eiseley
10. The Turning Point, Fritjof Capra

Ten Books for the Short Story Lover

1. Arranged Marriage, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
2. Flash Fiction, James Thomas
3. Microfiction, Jerome Stern (editor)
4. Selected Stories, Andrey Dubus
5. The Collected Stories of Ernest Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway
6. The Collected Stories of Flannery O'Connor, Flannery O'Connor
7. The Collected Stories of John Cheever, John Cheever
8. The Vintage Contemporary Book of American Short Stories, ed. by Tobias Wolff
9. Where I'm Calling From, Raymond Carver
10. You've Got to Read This!, ed. by Ron Hansen and Jim Shepherd

Ten Books about Teaching

1. A Lesson Before Dying, Ernest Gaines
2. Bird by Bird, Annie Lamott
3. James Agee's Letters to Father Flye
4. Letters to Alice: On First Reading Jane Austen, Fay Weldon
5. The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours, Marian Wright Edelman
6. Poetic Justice: The Literary Imagination and Public Life, Martha Nussbaum
7. Spitwad Sutras: Classroom Teaching as Sublime Vocation, Robert Inchausti
8. The Genesis of Ethics, Burton Vysotski
9. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
10. Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Robert Pirsig

Ten Books for Sports Fans

1. A Season on the Brink: A Season with Bob Knight and the Indiana Hoosiers, John Feinstein
2. Hard Courts: Real Life on the Professional Tennis Tours, John Feinstein
3. In These Girls the Heart Is a Muscle,
4. Little Girls in Pretty Boxes, Joan Ryan
5. Once More Around the Park: A Baseball Reader, Roger Angell
6. Sacred Hoops: Spiritual Lessons of a Hardwood Warrior, Phil Jackson (and Hugh Delehanty)
7. Stoked: A History of Surf Culture, Drew Kampion and Bruce Brown
8. The Thinking Man's Guide to Professional Football, Paul Zimmerman
9. Values of the Game, Bill Bradley
10. Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod, Gary Paulsen

Ten Books in Search of the Truth

1. Albuquerque, Rudolfo Anaya
2. Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood, Benjamin Wilkomirski
 - o NOTE: Ironically, Wilkomirski has been identified as a fraud and his "fragments" discredited as fictional. Thus you might want to read this book not as one in search of the truth but rather as an attempt to undermine it. Thanks to Pete Fredlake for pointing this out to me. As Pete said, if the author offered the story as a novel, it would be one thing, but to present it as factual is unethical.
3. Full House: The Spread of Excellence from Plato to Darwin, Stephen Jay Gould
4. Notes of a Native Son, James Baldwin
5. The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust
6. Seeing Voices: A Journey into the World of the Deaf, Oliver Sacks
7. Serpico, Frank Serpico
8. Sophie's Choice, William Styron
9. The Discoverers: A History of Man's Search to Know His World and Himself, Daniel J. Boorstin
10. The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen Scientist, Richard Feynman