Fiction and Nonfiction Trade and Picture Books
for High School Content Areas
Compiled by Ishi Hayes, KHS Reading Specialist (Updated 5/18/2012)

Nuclear Holocaust
Z for Zachariah by Robert C. O’Brien
Children of the Dust by Louise Lawrence
The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss

Slavery
The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Virginia Hamilton (includes slave tales of freedom)
The Middle Passage: White Ships, Black Cargo by Tom Feelings (wordless picture book)
To Be a Slave by Julius Lester (first-hand accounts)
Which Way Freedom? By Joyce Hansen (enslaved boy during Civil War)
Night John by Gary Paulsen (man teaches slaves to read in secret)
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson (enslaved girl during Revolutionary War era)

World Cultures/World Languages
19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East by Naomi Sihab Nye
Colors of Freedom: Immigrant Stories by Janet Bode
First Crossing: Stories About Teen Immigrants edited by Donald Gallo
Asphalt Angels by Ineke Holtwijk (homeless kids in Rio de Janeiro)
Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Fisher Staples
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Tiger Soup: An Anansi Story from Jamaica by Frances Temple (picture book)
Alphabet of Dreams by Susan Fletcher
Anahita’s Woven Riddle by Meghan Nuttall Sayres
Before We Were Free by Julia Alvaraz
Born Confused by Tanuja Desai Hidier
The Fattening Hut by Pat Lowery Collins
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros (Latino-American coming of age story in vignettes)
Kiss the Dust by Elizabeth Laird
Monsoon Summer by Mitali Perkins
The Other Side of Truth by Beverley Naidoo
Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You by Hanna Jansen
Parrot in the Oven: Mid Vida by Victor Martines
Real Time: A Novel by Pnina Moed Kass
Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood by Benfamin Alire Saenz
Samurai Shortstop by Alan Gratz
A Step From Heaven by An Na (Korean immigrants, coming of age)
A Stone in My Hand by Cathryn Clinton
When My Name Was Keoko by Linda Sue Park
Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States by Lori Marie Carlson, ed.
Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States by Lori Marie Carlson, ed.
Broken Memory: A Novel of Rwanda by Elisabeth Combres (Rwandan genocide, child refugee)
No Safe Place by Deborah Ellis (child soldiers, human trafficking, refugees, adventure)
Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick (child soldiers, Cambodian boy under Khmer Rouge)
Bamboo People by Mitali Perkins (child soldiers, 2 Burmese boys)
The Shepherd’s Granddaughter by Anne Laurel Carter (Palestinian/Israeli conflict)

Revolutionary War
My Brother Sam Is Dead by James Lincoln Collier (young male protagonist)

U.S. Civil War
The Boys’ War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk about the Civil War by J. Murphy
Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy by Seymour Reit
Charley Skedaddle by Patricia Beatty
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt
Dear Ellen Bee: A Civil War Scrapbook of Two Union Spies by Mary E. Lyons
Bull Run by Paul Fleischman
Abraham’s Battle: A Novel of Gettysburg by Sara Harrell Banks (protagonist is 16)
Seen the Glory by John Hough, Jr.

Vietnam War
Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam by Walter Dean Myers
The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
Okay for Now by Gary D. Schmidt (parental abuse, wounded sibling in Vietnam war)

World War I
The First World War by John Keegan
Lord of the Nutcracker Men by Iain Lawrence
Pictures, 1918 by Jeanette Ingold (protagonist is 15)

World War II/ Holocaust
Rose Blanche by Christophe Gallaz and Roberto Innocenti
Home of the Brave by Say (Japanese Internment)
I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust by L. Bitton-Jackson
The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler by James Cross Giblin
Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary – A Photographic Remembrance by Ruud van der Rol and Rian Verhoeven
Nisei Daughter by Monica Itoi Sone (memoir - Japanese internment)
Sarah’s Key by Tatiana de Rosnay (historical fiction – the Paris “round-ups” and deportations)
The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen
The Art of Keeping Cool by Janet Taylor Lisle
The Last Brother: A Novel by Nathacha Appanah
Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal by Mal Peet (resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland, 15-year-old protagonist)
Requiem: Poems of the Theresienstadt Ghetto by Paul B. Janeczko (Inspired by history of the Theresienstadt concentration camp)
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (foster girl in Nazi Germany, hiding a Jew, censorship)

War in Afghanistan
Lone Survivor by Marcus Luttrell

Iraq War
No Safe Place by Deborah Ellis (child soldiers, human trafficking, refugees, adventure)
African-American History/Civil Rights
*Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock* by Beals
*The Help* by Katherine Stockett (civil rights novel, Black maids - early 1960s Mississippi)
*My Mother the Cheerleader* by Robert Sharenow (school integration)
*Walking to the Bus Rider Blues* by Harriette Gillem Robinet
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
*Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose (nonfiction, segregation, bus boycotts)
*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia (Black Panther Party/ 1968/ “Black Power”)

American History/Miscellaneous
*Thomas Jefferson: A Picture Book Biography* by J. Giblin
*Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence* by R. Freedman
*We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History* by P.M. Hoose
*CROSSING THE DELAWARE: A HISTORY IN MANY VOICES* by Louise Peacock (picture book story)
*The Dear America* series published by Scholastic, Inc.
*So You Want to Be President?* by St. George
*Lakota Woman* by Mary Crow Dog (growing up on a reservation, American Indian Movement)
*Dragons’ Gate* by Laurence Yep (Chinese-American Laborers)
*Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories From the Dark Side of American Immigration* by Ann Bausum (Mistreatment of Chinese, Russian, Jewish, Japanese, & Mexican immigrants)
*The Heretic’s Daughter: A Novel* Kathleen Kent (historical fiction - Salem witch trials)
*Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp* by Jerry Stanley
*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (protagonist is 14)
*Lewis and Clark* by Nick Bertozzi (YA graphic novel)
*I’ll Be Watching* by Pamela Porter (novel, Great Depression)
*11/22/63* by Stephen King (JFK Assination/ “alternate history”)

Miscellaneous History/Social Studies
*First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung
*Cartoon History of the United States and Cartoon History of the Modern World* by Larry Gonick
*Peony in Love* by Lisa See (China 1662-1722, recommended for older high school students)
*Snowflower* by Lisa See (China 1823-1864, appropriate for younger high school students)
*Nothing But the Truth* by Avi (freedom of speech, patriotism, 9th grade protagonist)
*Guantanamo Boy* by Anna Perera (15-year-old Pakistani boy in prison, terrorism, torture)

European History
*Courage and Conviction: Chronicles of the Reformation Church* by Mindy & Brandon Withrow (esp. for younger and/or lower level readers)
*Monks and Mystics: Chronicles of the Medieval Church* by Mindy & Brandon Withrow (esp. for younger and/or lower level readers)
The *Young Royals Book* series by Carolyn Meyer (historical fiction with child & teenage protagonists: Mary Tudor, Elizabeth Tudor, Catherine of Aragon, Marie Antoinette, Catherine de’ Medici, Anne Boleyn)

Math
*G is for Googol* by Schwartz (network theory and probability)
*Anno’s Math Games II* by M. Anno
The *Sir Cumference* series by Cindy Neuschwander (geometry)
*A Grain of Rice* by Helena Clare Pittman (exponential growth)
*One Grain of Rice* by Demi (exponential growth)
*Esio Trot* by Roald Dahl (measurement/graphing)
The *Cartoon Guide to Statistics* by Larry Gonick
Science
The Man Who Made Time Travel by Lasky
Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein by Delano
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by Fleischman
Cool Stuff 2.0: And How It Works by Jon Woodcock and Chris Woodford
Reef by Scubazoo
Come Back, Salmon: How a Group of Dedicated Kids Adopted Pigeon Creek
and Brought it Back to Life by M. Cone and S. Wheelwright
Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women by C. Thimmesh
To Space and Back by Sally Ride and Susan Okie
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (endangered species protection)
Scat by Carl Hiaasen (wildlife protection)
Flush by Carl Hiaasen (water pollution)
Earthgirl by Jennifer Cowan (environmental activism)
Hurt Go Happy by Ginny Rorby (animal testing, bond between chimps and humans)

Poetry/ Classic Literature
William Shakespeare’s Macbeth by Bruce Coville (picture book)
Romeow and Drooliet by Nina Laden (picture book)
Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451 adapted by Tim Hamilton (graphic novel)
Hip-Hop Poetry and the Classics by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
You Hear Me? Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys by Betsy Franco, ed.
Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls by Betsy Franco, ed.
Paint Me Like I am: Teen Poems From WritersCorps by Bill Aquado & Richard Newirth, ed.
Picture This! Shakespeare graphic novel series (Barron’s Educational Series):
    Hamlet, Julius Ceasar, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Romeo and Juliet, &
    Twelfth Night
The Shakespeare Stealer, Shakespeare’s Scribe, & Shakespeare’s Spy by Gary Blackwood
(14-year-old protagonist, for very low readers)
Love That Dog and Hate That Cat by Sharon Creech (in blank verse, follows protagonist through
    academic study of great poems)

Music
Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)
    by Kathleen Krull
Mysterious Thelonious by C. Raschka
When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson by P.M. Ryan
Marsalis on Music by Wynton Marsalis
Birdland by Tracy Mack
Born Blue by Han Nolan
Born to Rock by Gordon Korman
Broken Chords by Barbara Snow Gilbert
Fat Kid Rules the World by K.L. Going
Gangsta Rap by Benjamin Zephaniah
Just Listen by Sarah Dessen
Mountain Solo by Jeanette Ingold
The Mozart Season by Virginia Euwer Wolff
Rock Star Superstar by Blake Nelson
Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star by Randy Powell
What a Song Can Do: 12 Riffs on the Power of Music edited by Jennifer Armstrong
‘Scuse Me While I Kiss the Sky: Jimi Hendrix: Voodoo Child by David Henderson
The Rose That Grew From Concrete by Tupak Shakur (poetry collection)
Hip-Hop Poetry and the Classics by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing by Ann Angel

Art
Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull
Leonardo da Vinci by D. Stanley
Michelangelo by D. Stanley
Chuck Close: Up Close by Greenberg and Jordan
Art Attack: A Short Cultural History of the Avant-Garde by M. Aronson
What Makes a Monet a Monet? by R. Muhlberger
A Young Painter: The Life and Paintings of Wang Yani by Z. Zhensun and A. Low
The Second Mrs. Gioconda by E.L. Konigsburg (da Vinci and the Mona Lisa, historical fiction)
Pavement Chalk Artist: The Three-Dimensional Drawings of Julian Beever

Sports/Physical Education
Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull
Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World’s Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull
It’s Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life by Lance Armstrong
Football Genius by Tim Green
Gym Candy by Carl Deuker (steroids)
Peak by Roland Smith
Hoops, Slam, Game and The Outside Shot, all by Walter Dean Myers
Chicken Soup for the Sports Fan’s Soul by Jack Canfield
Travel Team by Mike Lupica (basketball)
The Batboy by Mike Lupica
Heat by Mike Lupica (baseball)
Mexican White Boy by Matt de la Pena (baseball)
Keeper by Mal Peet (novel about World Cup champion goalie El Gato)
Goal!: The Dream Begins by Robert Rigby (novel of soccer & the pay-off of hard work)

Health/Psychology/Teen Parenthood/Teen Sexuality/Bullying
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher (suicide)
Get Well Soon by Julie Halpern
Chanda’s Secrets by Allan Stratton (Africa – AIDS, family relations)
The First Part Last by Angela Johnson
Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman
Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff (teen parenthood)
Damage by A.M. Jenkins
Broken China by Lori Aurelia Williams
Chill Wind by Janet McDonald
Dancing Naked Shelley Hrdliitscha
One Night by Margaret Wild
Someone Like You by Sarah Dessen
True Confessions of a Heartless Girl by Martha Brooks
The White Horse by Cynthia Grant
Annie on My Mind by Nancy Garden
Am I Blue?: Coming Out from the Silence edited by Marion Dane Bauer
Bermudez Triangle by Maureen Johnson
Between Mom and Jo by Julie Ann Peters
Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan (teen homosexuality)
Empress of the World by Sara Ryan
Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss, and What I Learned by Judd Winick
Looks by Madeleine George
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini (depression, suicide)
Crank by Ellen Hopkins (drug addiction, rape, teen pregnancy)
Glass by Ellen Hopkins (sequel to Crank)
Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen (bullying, anger)
Nothing But The Truth by Avi (high school politics)
Stand Tall by Joan Bauer (teen boy coping with divorced parents)
Death Be Not Proud by John Gunther (memoir – terminal illness of a teen)
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (parent abandonment)
Tangerine by Edward Bloor
Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers (gang violence, peer pressure)
Looks by Madeleine George (eating disorders, revenge)
Cut by Patricia McCormick (self-mutilation)
Scars by Cheryl Rainfield (self-mutilation)
The Struggle To Be Strong: True Stories By Teens About Overcoming Tough Times by Al Desetta & Sybil Wolin, editors (drug addiction, inter-racial dating, parental abandonment, raising siblings, homosexuality, and more)
Stay by Deb Caletti (abusive relationships, stalking)
Bitter Melon by Cara Chow (parental abuse, cultural identity)
Leverage by Joshua C. Cohen (steroids, rape, suicide, bullying, stuttering)
Shine by Lauren Myracle (homophobia, sexual abuse, bullying, hate crimes)
Kick by Walter Dean Myers & Ross Workman (parental abuse, depression, soccer)
Clean by Amy Reed (drug, alcohol, physical, and sexual abuse; rehab; anorexia)
Okay for Now by Gary D. Schmidt (parental abuse, sibling in foreign war)
Mad Love by Suzanne Selfors (mother with mental illness)
Bitter End by Jennifer Brown (abusive relationships)
Dear Bully: Seventy Authors Tell Their Stories by Megan Kelly Hall & Carrie Jones, ed. (Bullying)
The Chamber of Five by Michael Harmon (bullying)
Addie on the Inside by James Howe (fitting in, acceptance – written in verse)
Crossing Lines by Paul Volponi (homophobia, bullying)
Skim by Mariko and Jillian Tamaki (graphic novel – suicide, homosexuality, self-identity)
I Kiss Girls by Gina Harris (homosexuality)
Some Girls Are by Courtney Summers (cliques, bullying)
The Dear One by Jacqueline Woodson (teen pregnancy)
I Hadn’t Meant to Tell You This by Jacqueline Woodson (incest, parent abandonment)
Someone to Love Me by Anne Schraff (relationship abuse, parental neglect and abuse)

Sources:
Connected Youth. “glbtq.” www.connectedyouth.org/books/index.cfm?booklist=teeenparents
International Reading Association. “Young Adults’ Choices 2009.” www.reading.org
Ishi Hayes’s own picks
KHS Library
KHS Student Recommendations
Miscellaneous International Reading Association adolescent book reviews 
Miscellaneous teacher recommendations 
Scholastic. “Books to Engage Boys.” www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4525 
Vacca, Richard and Jo Anne L. Vacca. Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum. Boston: Pearson 
Waters, Barbara, KHS Librarian 
Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). www.ala.org/yalsa/