Books in the Blume Library Recommended for Content Area Reading
(All books are located in juvenile collection unless otherwise indicated.)

ART

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
PZ7.S4654
Recommended in TeachingBooks.net for grades 4-12 and appropriate for Art, English
Language Arts, and History this book provides a wonderful blending of art and text. The
book was made into a movie and won the 2008 Caldecott Award.

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
PZ7 Y211 Am 2006
Prize winning graphic novel that brings together three seemingly unrelated stories-- two
about contemporary teens and one based on a Chinese fable. (Winner of the Printz Award
and a National Book Award Finalist)

My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok
PS3566.O69 M9 (Adult)
Asher Lev is an artist whose paintings conflict with Jewish religious beliefs in the Hasidic
community.

Annotated Art by Robert Cumming
ND 1143 .C86 1995 (Adult)
“Art masterpieces are made understandable through the exploration of some of the world’s
greatest paintings.” From Outstanding Books for the College Bound.

The Annotated Mona Lisa: a Crash Course in Art History by Carol Strickland
N5302 .S76 1992 (Adult)
“From cave paintings to conceptual art, art history is demystified.” From Outstanding
Books for the College Bound.

Art Attack A Short Cultural History of the Avant-Garde, by Marc Aronson
NX18O .S6 A67 1998 (Adult)
“Discover everything you ever wanted to know about bohemians, hipsters and the
development of the world’s most radical art.” From Outstanding Books for the College
Bound.

Masterpieces Up Close: Western Painting from the 14th to 20th Centuries by Claire
d’Harcourt
ND1146 .D4813 2006
Translated from the French this is a picture book which describes details in paintings of
the masters and challenges the reader to find the details through a game.

Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth Century American Art edited by Jan
Greenberg
PS595 .A75 H43 2001
American poets were asked to choose a twentieth-century American artwork and write a
poem based on their response. Featured artists include Benton, Calder, Hopper, and
Grandma Moses. Featured poets include well know writers such as Sandy Asher, Angela
Johnson, X.J. Kennedy, and Naomi Shihab Nye. (Printz Honor Book)
ENGLISH

(These are all books, which demonstrate non-traditional writing styles.)

Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse
PZ7.H4364 Mu 1996
This is a story of a child raised by dolphins and what happens as humans try to bring her into society. Font size and linguistic complexity are used to indicate skill development of Mila, the novel’s main character.

Catherine Called Birdy by Karen Cushman
PZ7.C962 Cat 1994
Written in diary format. Story of a young girl during medieval period.

Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff
PZ7.W82129 MAK 1993
Written entirely in first person and natural conversation. LaVaughn learns much about herself as she baby-sits for a teenage mother.

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam (3rd fl.) non-fiction
DS559.5 .D43 1985 (Adult)
Letters from those who made it back and from those who did not return provide a glimpse into the lives of the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

HISTORY

An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy
RA644 .Y4 M875 2003
From publisher's summary: "Thoroughly researched, generously illustrated with fascinating archival prints, and unflinching in its discussion of medical details, this book offers a glimpse into the conditions of American cities at the time of our nation's birth while drawing timely parallels to modern-day epidemics.” Bibliography, map, index. “(Newbery Honor Book, 2004 and Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award, 2004)

The Dark Game: True Spy Stories by Paul Janeczko
UB271.U5 J36 2010
“Codes, the GhostNet, tunnels, inks, satellites and cyber espionage; American men and women have been spying since the Revolution.” (Description from 2011 SAISD Reading List)

The Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
PZ7.C94137 Wat 1995
Family travels from Michigan to Birmingham. Racism and civil rights movement form a backdrop to the story. (Newbery Honor Book)
House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton
PZ7.H1828 Ho
Contemporary mystery novel centered on the history of the Underground Railroad.

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier
PZ7.C678
Story of two brothers during the American revolutionary war. One is a Tory and the other is a Rebel.

The Diary of a Young Girl: the Definitive Edition by Anne Frank
DS635.N6 F73313 1995
“Through the diary she kept while in hiding, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank puts a human face on the Holocaust experience.” From Outstanding Books for the College Bound

Anne Frank Beyond the Diary by Ruud van der Rol and Rian Verhoeven
DS135.N6 F7385
From publisher’s summary: "Photographs, illustrations, and maps accompany historical essays, diary excerpts, and interviews, providing an insight to Anne Frank and the massive upheaval which tore apart her world."

They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group by Susan Campbell Bartlett
HS2330 .K63 B37 2010
From the publisher’s summary: “This is the story of how a secret terrorist group took root in America’s democracy. Filled with chilling and vivid personal accounts unearthed from oral histories, congressional documents, and other primary sources….” (Printz Honor book)

MATH

Ada, the Enchantress of Numbers (Adult) non-fiction
QA29.L72 A4 1992
Lord Byron’s daughter Ada, countess of Lovelace is credited with being the first computer programmer through her work with Charles Babbage. This book consists of many of her letters.

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions by Edwin Abbott (Adult)
QA699.A13 1999
First published in 1884 Flatland is early science fiction satire which uses geometric shapes to establish social class.

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card (Adult)
PS3553.A655 E5 1991
In a world decimated by alien attacks, the government trains young geniuses like Ender Wiggins in military strategy with increasingly complex computer games.

Life by the Numbers by Keith Devlin (Adult)
QA93 D458 1998
“Based on the television series by the same name, this is a book about everyday life and the role played in everyday life by mathematics.” The book looks at the role math plays in such areas as art, nature, film, and athletics.
The Man Who Counted by Malba Tahan (Adult) QA95 .T2913
Tahan is a fictional author created by Julio de Melo e Sousa a Brazilian mathematician who claims to have “translated” this collection of Persian folktales each built around a mathematical puzzle.

MUSIC

Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad by M.T. Anderson ML3930.S4995 A53 2015
Anderson’s book, a YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Honor Book, tells the story of Hitler’s siege of Leningrad and the role that Shostakovich had in the perseverance of its citizens during the deadly siege.

Hit Me With Music: How to Start, Manage, Record, and Perform with your Own Rock Band by Stephanie Powell ML3795 .P68 1995
From publisher's summary: "This book guides readers through every aspect of forming and playing in a rock band, from determining style and instrumentation to playing live and recording."

Music also plays a part in Mila’s social development.

Musicians in Tune by Jenny Boyd (Adult) nonfiction ML3838.B696 1992
“An insider to the music scene interviews the biggest stars.” From Outstanding Books for the College Bound

Excellent overview of this popular music form.

Joy of Music by Leonard Bernstein (Adult) nonfiction ML60.B47
“Bernstein presents a fresh and enthusiastic approach to the joy of music.” From Outstanding Books for the College Bound

This award winning book chronicles the life of famed rocker Janis Joplin (1943-1970) from her high school days to fame and self-destruction. Simple language and many photographs illustrate this book written specifically for young adults. (ALA/YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

John Tunis—classic sports writer
Sports writer for the NY Post and wrote 24 novels for young people between 1938-1975

The Natural by Bernard Malamud (Adult)
PS3563.A4 N3
“Story of a baseball player with extraordinary talents who must battle corruption and temptation.” From The Young Adult Reader’s Advisor

Slot Machine by Chris Lynch
PZ7.L979739 S1 1995
In this very funny coming-of-age story, Elvin tries to find his “slot” in summer sports camp.

Taking Sides by Gary Soto
PZ7.S7242 Ta 1996
Lincoln Mendoza moves from his old neighborhood to a new more prosperous neighborhood. He wants to maintain his loyalty to his old friends while playing basketball at his new school.

Slam! by Walter Dean Myers
PZ7.M992S1 1996
Story of a young man finding out that his basketball skills may not provide the key to his future.

SCIENCE

Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw
GN282.5 .R83 2010
“Paleontologists and archaeologists study mankind through the Turkana Boy, Lapedo Child, Kennewick Man, and Ötzi the Iceman. Full-color photos and a time line give context.” (Description from SAISD 2011 Summer Reading List.)

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card (Adult)
See (Math)
PS 3553 .A655 E5 1991

The Hot Zone by Richard Preston (Adult)
RC140.5 .P74 1974
Described as a “science fact thriller,” the author traces efforts to control the spread of the deadly Ebola virus.

Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science – from the Babylonians to the Maya by Dick Teresi (Adult)
Q124.95 T47 2002
“This multicultural history of science explores the ancients’ amazing contributions to mathematics, astronomy, cosmology, physics, geology, chemistry, and technology.”
(Description from SAISD 2011 Summer Reading List.)

The Postman by David Brin (3rd. fl.)
PS3552.R4825 P6 1986
Story of post-nuclear America pitting intellectualism against physical power.

Z for Zachariah by Robert O’Brien
PZ7 .0135 ZAC1987
Sixteen year-old Ann Burden thinks she is the only survivor of nuclear war until John Loomis arrives in her protected valley. What kind of man is he and is he there to cause her harm?

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird by Phillip Hoose
QL696 .P56 H66
This is an award winning book about the history and supposed extinction of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. (Boston Globe/Horn Book Award)

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Giver by Lois Lowry
PZ7.L9673 Gi 1993
First of what was to become a trilogy, The Giver takes place in a seemingly utopian society where the rules and regulations increasingly dehumanize the inhabitants and opens up questions regarding free will, differences, and the power to question one’s surroundings.

Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye
PZ7.N976 Hab 1997
This is a story about a young Palestinian-American girl who immigrates with her family to an area near Jerusalem where her father was born. The narrative provides insight into Middle Eastern culture and the tensions between Palestinians and Jews living within the region.

Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement by Rick Bowers
E185.95 M6 B69 2010
In 1956 the Civil Rights Movement was a force across the nation – except in the Mississippi where a secret propaganda, espionage and dirty tricks agency was developed to protect white supremacy. (Description from 2011 SAISD Summer Reading List)

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution (nonfiction) by Ji-li Jiang
DS778.7 .J53 1997
A young Chinese girl must make difficult choices when the government urges her to repudiate her ancestors and inform on her own parents.
SPANISH

Sweet Fifteen by Diane Bertrand  
PZ7.B46357 SW1995  
Written by St. Mary’s English instructor, Diane Bertrand, this is a romantic novel using preparations for a quinceñera as background.

Jesse by Gary Soto  
PZ7.S7242 Je 1994  
Jesse is about two young men during the Vietnam War era in California and their involvement with the farm workers movement.

Bless Me Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya (Adult)  
PS3551.N27 B58 1972  
“Ultima, a wise old mystic, helps a young Hispanic boy resolve personal dilemmas caused by the differing backgrounds and aspirations of his parents and society.” from Outstanding Books for the College Bound

Parrot in the Oven by Victor Martinez  
PZ7.M36718 Par 1996  
National Book Award  
Story of a young man growing up in a tough neighborhood.

House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros (Adult)  
PS3553.I78 H6 1986  
Composed of short, poetic vignettes describing a young girl and her friends and family.

Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States by Lori Carlson (ed.)  
PS591.H58 R43 2005  
The title explains it all!

Sources:
