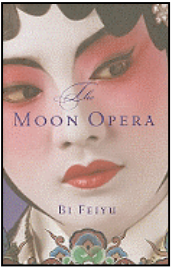


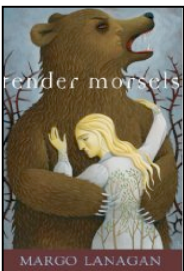
# SUMMERTIME AND THE READING IS EASY

## GRADE 11



### **Feiyu, Bi. The Moon Opera.**

A gem of a book that takes a piercing look into the world of Chinese opera and its female stars. In a fit of diva jealousy, Xiao Yanqiu, star of *The Moon Opera*, disfigures her understudy with boiling water. Spurned by the troupe, she turns to teaching. Twenty years later, a rich cigarette-factory boss offers to underwrite a restaging of the cursed opera, but only on the condition that Xiao Yanqiu return to the role of Chang'e. So she does, this time believing she has fully become the immortal moon goddess.



### **Lanagan, Margo. Tender Morsels.**

After a horrific upbringing, 15-year-old Liga and her two daughters are magicked away into another world, which differs in one crucial aspect: it is utterly safe and free from surprise. In time, though, the old world intrudes upon their quiet heaven, and Liga and her daughters must face a painful reunion with reality. At its essence, this is a story about good and evil, not at all unusual for a fantasy, but there isn't a single usual thing in the way that Lanagan (who won a 2006 Printz Honor for *Black Juice*) goes about it.



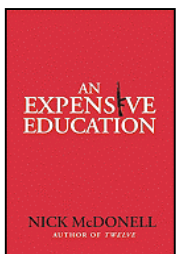
### **Seierstad, Asne. The Bookseller of Kabul.**

Seierstad, a Swedish journalist, entered Kabul with Northern Alliance soldiers after they ousted the Taliban. She took the rare opportunity to live with and write a book about the extended family of Sultan Khan, bookseller and entrepreneur. The result, organized around events in the lives of individual members of Khan's large clan provides appropriate information about recent Afghani history, a glimpse from the inside at an Islamic family, and an understanding of the harshness and difficulty of the daily grind in Afghanistan--both under the Taliban and after the U.S. antiterrorist campaign.



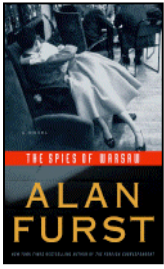
### **Houghteling, Sara. Pictures at an Exhibition.**

In late 1930s Paris, Max Berenzon studies medicine but longs to be his father's apprentice at the city's most successful art gallery in Paris. In lieu of succeeding his father at the gallery, Max falls in love with his father's protégée, Rose. However, when World War II reaches Paris, the Berenzons must flee, hiding in the French countryside for the next four years and leaving the gallery's paintings behind in a vault. When the war is over, Max and his father return to Paris, only to find that all of the paintings have been looted.



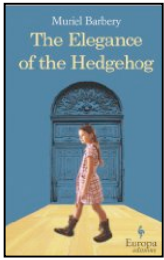
### **McDonnell, Nick. An Expensive Education.**

Readers travel into Harvard through its dormitories and dining halls, into its elite finals clubs and lecture halls, and within the offices of its ambitious professors giving us an incredibly authentic insider's view of this illustrious university. A powerful portrait of personalities all ensnared in the African conflict and of the Harvard campus on which the debate takes place. A smart, relentless novel set at the troubled intersection of ivory academia and realpolitik.



**Furst, Alan. Spies of Warsaw.**

It's the autumn of 1937, and the shadows of war are darkening over Warsaw. Colonel Jean-Francois Mercier, military attaché with the French embassy (a spy, that is), doesn't like what he's hearing, wherever he snoops. The Poles know trouble is coming but aren't prepared for it, and the French, who might still be able to prepare, are convinced they are impregnable. As spies from throughout Europe gather at sundry diplomatic functions to trade innuendos, Mercier stumbles across what could be the real thing: access to a renegade Nazi who might be able to broker a deal that could give the French knowledge of German attack plans.



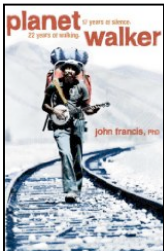
**Barbery, Muriel. The Elegance of the Hedgehog.**

In a bourgeois apartment building in Paris, we encounter Renée, a cultured concierge who masks herself as the stereotypical uneducated "super" to avoid suspicion from the building's pretentious inhabitants. Also living in the building is Paloma, the adolescent daughter of a parliamentarian, who has decided to commit suicide on her thirteenth birthday because she cannot bear to live among the rich. Although they are passing strangers, it is through Renée's observations and Paloma's journal entries that the absurd lives of the wealthy are revealed.



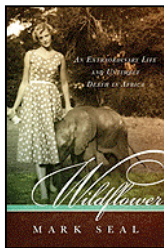
**Auchincloss, Louis. The Headmaster's Dilemma.**

New England prep school Averhill is changing with the times (it's the 1970s), thanks in large part to the popular and progressive headmaster Michael Sayre. But he runs afoul of a member of the board of trustees, who wants to donate a grandiose sports complex. Rumors of campus improprieties swirl alongside political machinations of the pro- and anti-change camps. Education, politics, money, class, and scandal mix for an exciting read.



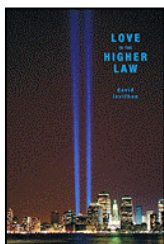
**Francis, John. Planetwalker: 22 years of Silence. 17 years of Walking.**

When the struggle to save oil-soaked birds and restore blackened beaches left him feeling frustrated and helpless, John Francis decided to take a more fundamental and personal stand—he stopped using all forms of motorized transportation. It began as a silent environmental protest, but as a young African-American man, walking across the country in the early 1970s, his idea of "the environment" expanded to include how we humans treat each other and how we can better communicate and work together to benefit the earth.



**Seal, Mark. Wildflower: An Extraordinary Life and Untimely Death in Kenya.**

In this riveting portrait, Seal incisively tracks Joan's affinity for the wild from her birth in Nairobi in 1932 to helping her intrepid father manage Kenya's first photo safaris, to her risky work with her husband, the innovative filmmaker and infamous daredevil Alan Root. Lovely, shy, and unflappable, Joan did everything from organizing their ambitious expeditions to dancing in front of a spitting cobra so Alan could film an attack.



**Jasper, Claire. Love is the Higher Law.**

Claire, Jasper, and Peter's lives are only loosely connected, but when the World Trade Center is hit by a plane on September 11, a series of events are set in motion that will change their lives forever. Peter and Jasper must come to terms with how they can begin a relationship when their world has been shattered; Claire and Jasper find kindred spirits in one another while looking out upon Ground Zero; and Peter and Claire find friendship and comfort in one another.