

# SUMMERTIME AND THE READING IS EASY

## GRADE 12



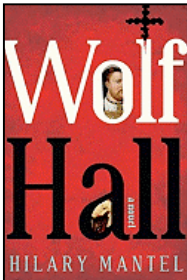
**Brown, Jennifer. The Hate List.**

She doesn't have the answers for why her boyfriend chose a May morning to kill six classmates and wound several others, but Valerie Leftman is one of the only people who can still remember the good in Nick Levil. As she builds her post-Nick identity during her senior year, Valerie forms an unlikely friendship with one of the shooting victims, explores art therapy and watches her family structure dissolve. Blending flashbacks, current events and newspaper articles together, Brown creates a compelling narrative that drives readers forward.



**Anderson, Laurie Halse. Wintergirls.**

Problem-novel fodder becomes a devastating portrait of the extremes of self-deception in this brutal and poetic deconstruction of how one girl stealthily vanishes into the depths of anorexia. Lia has been down this road before: her competitive relationship with her best friend, Cassie, once landed them both in the hospital, but now not even Cassie's death can eradicate Lia's disgust of the fat cows who scrutinize her body all day long.



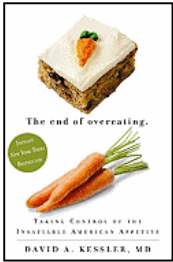
**Mantel, Hilary. Wolf Hall.**

Henry VIII's challenge to the church's power with his desire to divorce his queen and marry Anne Boleyn set off a tidal wave of religious, political and societal turmoil that reverberated throughout 16th-century Europe. Mantel boldly attempts to capture the sweeping internecine machinations of the times from the perspective of Thomas Cromwell, the lowborn man who became one of Henry's closest advisers.



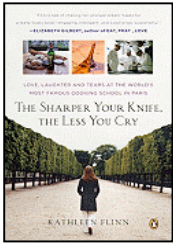
**Tannen, Deborah. You're Wearing That?: Mothers and Daughters in Conversation.**

Why do daughters complain that their mothers always criticize, while mothers feel hurt that their daughters shut them out? Deborah Tannen examines every aspect of this complex dynamic, from the dark side that can shadow a woman throughout her life, to the new technologies like e-mail and instant messaging that are transforming mother-daughter communication.



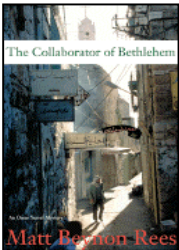
**Kessler, David A. The End of Overeating.**

Through the evidence of research, personal stories (including candid accounts of his own struggles) and examinations of specific foods produced by giant food corporations and restaurant chains, Kessler explains how the desire to eat as distinct from eating itself is stimulated in the brain by an almost infinite variety of diabolical combinations of salt, fat and sugar.



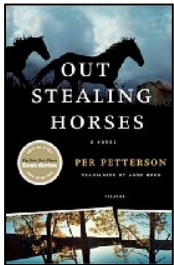
**Finn, Kathleen. The Sharper the Knife, the Less You Cry.**

In 2003, Flinn, a 36-year-old American living and working in London, cleared out her savings and moved to Paris to pursue a dream diploma from the famed Le Cordon Bleu cooking school. The ultimate wish fulfillment book, her story is a true testament to pursuing a dream.



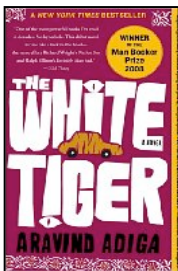
**Rees, Matt Beynon. The Collaborator of Bethlehem.**

Omar Yussef is a schoolteacher in Bethlehem, struggling to teach history unfettered by politics. When a PLO soldier is murdered, and a Palestinian Christian is arrested for the crime (and accused of being a collaborator with the Israelis), Yussef launches his own investigation, convinced that the accused, a former student, is innocent.



**Petterson, Per. Out Stealing Horses.**

Trond Sander, a widower nearing seventy, moves to a bare house in remote eastern Norway, seeking the life of quiet contemplation that he has always longed for. A chance encounter with a neighbor—the brother, as it happens, of his childhood friend Jon—causes him to ruminate on the summer of 1948, the last he spent with his adored father, who abandoned the family soon afterward. Petterson's spare and deliberate prose has astonishing force, and the narrative gains further power from the artful interplay of Trond's childhood and adult perspectives.



**Adiga, Arivand. The White Tiger.**

In this darkly comic debut novel set in India, Balam, a chauffeur, murders his employer, justifying his crime as the act of a "social entrepreneur." The chauffeur recounts his transformation from an honest, hardworking boy growing up in "the Darkness" to a determined killer. He places the blame for his rage squarely on the avarice of the Indian elite, who perpetuate a system in which many are sacrificed to the whims of a few. A Booker Prize winner!