

***Boys to Men***  
***Books Boys Like***  
***Suggested Reading for Grades 9-12***

*The following list comes from books young men at KSS have read and recommended.*

***Title***

***Author***

***Call #***

***AR Level***

***# of Pages***

***Description***

**A Clockwork Orange**

Burgess, Anthony

FIC BUR

192

Alex, a 15-year-old droog, is the central character in this vision of the future where criminals take over at night and commit acts of cruelty. Captured and imprisoned, Alex undergoes psychological rehabilitation that transforms him into a model citizen. Can Alex stay a model citizen or does he revert to his criminal ways?

**Adventures of the Blue Advenger**

Howe, N.

FIC HOW

6.2

230

On his sixteenth birthday, still trying to cope with the unexpected death of his father, David Schumacher decides (or does he) to change his name to Blue Avenger hoping to find a way to make a difference in his Oakland neighborhood and in the world.

**All Quiet on the Western Front**

Remarque, Erich

FIC REM

6.0

295

Paul Baumer and his friends join the German Army as teenagers enthusiastic to become soldiers. After the first bombardment, they break to pieces. Paul holds on to his principle of fighting hate but can he survive the war himself?

**All the Pretty Horses**

McCarthy, C.

FIC MCC

4.9

302

John Grady Cole, a 16-year-old Texas rancher and horseman crosses the Rio Grande into Mexico with his friend Lacey Rawlins. They meet up with Jimmy Blevins who is a deadly marksman. These young men run into bandits, have run ins with Mexican officials, and many more adventures on their trip south.

**Are We There Yet?**

Levithan, David

FIC LEV

215

Donny, 17 and Elijah 23, are brothers who have grown apart. Their parents trick them into a trip to Italy together in hopes of bringing them close again. They each meet a girl- the same girl. Will Julia change everything for these brothers?

**Birdland**

Mack, Tracy

FIC MAC

4.4

198

Zeke has died and his younger brother Jed sets out to find out why. For an assignment in English class, he sets out to film a documentary of the lower east side of Manhattan that is deccribed in Zekes poems, and journals, especially his love of jazz and Charlie "Bird" Parker. He meets a homeless girl who seems to know the truth about Zeke's death.

*Book descriptions taken from School Library Journal, Booklist, and individual book jackets.  
 Friday, February 02, 2007*

*Page 1 of 9*

***Title***

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**Black Duck**

Lisle, J.T

FIC LIS

252

Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body washed up on shore and they are sure it has to do with smuggling liquor. The boys are accused of taking something crucial off the body by rival bootlegging gangs. Soon the boys are keeping dangerous company with the captain of the legendary rum-running boat, the Black Duck.

**Blue Advenger and the Theory of Everything**

Howe, N.

FIC HOW

6.4

225

Sequel to: Blue Advenger cracks the code. While continuing to ponder the concepts of free will and time, Blue Advenger becomes involved in the schemes of a quirky multimillionaire that may determine not only Blue's financial future but also that of his girlfriend, Omaha Nebraska Brown.

**Blue Avenger Cracks the Code**

Howe, N.

FIC HOW

6.1

296

Sequel to: The Adventures of Blue Avenger. In his new identity as Blue Avenger, sixteen-year-old David visits Venice, Italy, and continues to pursue various crusades, including trying to solve the mystery of who really wrote Shakespeare's works.

**Burn Journals**

Runyon, Brent

921 RUN

3.8

374

Brent Runyon set himself on fire. The book describes the devastating suicide attempt, his recovery, and the frightening prospect of entering high school looking different to his classmates.

**Camouflage**

Miklowitz, G.

FIC MIK

166

Kyle was looking forward to spending the summer with his dad where he thought he would fish and drive and learn about being a man. He discovers his dad is a member of a militia that is plotting to wage war on the federal government. Kyle has to struggle with his beliefs about right and wrong and loyalty to his father.

**Code Orange**

Cooney, C.

FIC COO

6.2

200

Mitty Blakes needs to do a report for his biology class on infectious diseases. In an old medical book he finds an envelope with two small pox scabs inside. Variola Major is a virus and has one task- to take over the cells of other creatures and spread. It has the potential to kill everyone in New York City.

**Code Talkers: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II**

Bruchac, Joseph

FIC BRU

6.4

231

Ned Begay leaves his Navajo home for boarding school where he learns English and American ways. At 16, he joins the Marines and is trained as a code talker, using his native language to radio battlefield information and commands as he moves around Guadalcanal, Bouganville, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. The Navajo Code was kept secret until 1969.

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**Description**

**Cosmos Coyote and William the Nice**

Heynen, Jim

FIC HEY

5.2

280

Seattle native Cosmos De Haag's life of petty crimes has caught up with him and in order to avoid "juvie" he is sentenced to a school year on his uncle's farm in Iowa. He decides to hide his trickster personality as Cosmos Coyote for his well behaved alter ego, William the Nice. He is surprised when he falls for a devout Christian girl and she for him.

**Double Helix**

Werlin, N.

FIC WER

5.0

252

Eli Samuels struggles with the knowledge that he might get Huntington's disease as he watches his mother slowly die from the disease. Eli takes a job at Wyatt Transgenetic Lab where, with the help of Kayla, he uncovers the genetic engineering experiments the lab has been doing and their connection to his parents, Kayla, and himself. Eli must face the bioethical issues of the labs experiments.

**Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska**

D' Orso, Michael

796.323

310

Eight miles above the Arctic Circle, the Fort Yukon Eagles fight their way to the state basketball championship playoffs. This true story not only covers the highs and lows on the basketball court, but the difficulties of life for these native people.

**Eldest**

Paolini, Christopher

FIC PAO

7.0

681

As a sequel to Eragon, the Ingetum Clan adopt Eragon and send him to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

**Eragon**

Paolini, Christopher

FIC PAO

5.6

509

Eragon finds a blue stone but it hatches into a sapphire-blue dragon. Eragon is the last of the Dragon Riders and he and the dragon set out on an adventure of perilous travels, sudden battles, capture and escape as they grow in magic powers.

**Every Man for Himself: Ten Original Stories about Being a Guy**

Mercado, N.E.

SC MER

4.5

154

Collection of stories that are both humorous and serious and deal with the values, decisions, and friendships that ultimately shape a boy into a man.

**Fallen Angels**

Myers, Walter Dean

FIC MYE

4.2

309

Perry volunteers for the military when his dream of attending college falls through. He is sent to the front lines in Vietnam where he and his platoon come face to face with the real horror of warfare. He questions why black soldiers get the most dangerous assignments and why the U.S. is there at all.

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**Feed**

Anderson, M.T. FIC AND 4.4 237

A satire set in a future world when television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies. The result is a society that constantly gets messages from the feed to buy, buy, buy. When Titus, the main character, meets Violet, his beliefs about the feed are challenged.

**Fire**

Junger, Sebastian 909.82 JUN 224

Danger junkies rejoice. Fire focuses on "people confronting situations that could easily destroy them." Raging forest fires in the Western U.S., war zones in Afghanistan, deadly diamond trade in Sierra Leone., travelers kidnapped by guerrillas in Kashmir, and the last whale harpooning in the Caribbean are just a few of the stories covered by Junge.

**For Mike**

Shykes, S. FIC SYK 197

Jeff's best friend, Mike, disappears. Did he die? Did he run away? Jeff begins to have dreams in which Mike say's "come to me". Jeff and his friend begin to chase after Mike through the clues he leaves in Mike's dreams.

**Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, and a Dream**

Bissinger, H.D. 796.332 BIS 8.0 366

The author spent the 1988 football season in Odessa, Texas, a town obsessed with it's champion high school football team- the Permian Panthers. The book shows how single minded devotion to the team shapes the community and inspires, and sometimes shatters, the teenagers who wear the Panther's uniform.

**Full Service**

Weaver, Will FIC WEA 4.5 232

Sixteen year old Paul comes from a conservative Christian family and in the summer of 1965 he takes a job pumping gas in the town because his mom believes he needs to "meet the public". What an adventure meeting the public turns out to be. He learns about life and love as the country struggles through the Vietnam War.

**Ghost Boy**

Lawrence, Iain FIC LAW 4.4 326

Harold Kline is an albino--white from head to toe. His life is made unbearable by the other kids who call him names. Feeling like a freak already, he runs away and joins the circus. Can Harold stay true to the "freaks" who took him in and accepted him?

**Going After Cacciato**

O'Brien, Tim FIC OBR 4.6 301

A young soldier deserts his post in Vietnam, intent on walking the 8,000 miles to the peace talks in Paris. His remaining squad members are sent to find him and bring him back to the war and to reality.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Call #</i>	<i>AR Level</i>	<i># of Pages</i>
<b>Handbook for Boys: A Novel</b>	Myers, Walter Dean	FIC MYE	4.9	211
The judge gives Jimmy the option of being assigned to a juvenile facility for six months or a community mentoring program. He chooses the mentoring program where he learns a lot by working for Duke in his barbershop.				
<b>Heat</b>	Lupica, Mike	FIC LUP	5.3	220
Michael Arroyo is a pitching ace but is banned from playing Little League because rival coaches think he is too old. He is hiding a secret about his Dad who isn't around to give proof of his birth				
<b>Hole in My Life</b>	Gantos, Jack	921 GAN	5.7	199
The author relates how as a young man he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college.				
<b>If I Die in Combat Zone: Box Me Up and Ship Me Home</b>	O'Brien, Tim	959.7043 OBR		205
The author gives us a personal account of his year as a foot soldier in Vietnam, with the ever-present danger of death and the human capacity to endure the endurable.				
<b>Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster</b>	Krakauer, Jon	792.522 KRA	8.9	293
Heroism and sacrifice triumph over foolishness, fatal error, and human frailty in this bone chilling narrative of the authors ill-fated deadly climb of Mt. Everest.				
<b>Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles</b>	Swofford, Anthony	956.704	7.4	260
The author, a U.S. Marine, recounts his disturbing experiences in the 1991 Gulf War and the emotional damage he suffered. He reflects on the nature of both the American military and the war itself.				
<b>Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell</b>	Clark, S.	FIC CLA	6.8	782
Magician, Mr. Norrell of Hurlfaw Abbey, uses his powers against Napoleon and the French in 1806 and is soon challenged by Jonathan Strange, a novice magician, who becomes obsessed with the Raven King, the twentieth century founder of English Magic.				

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**Kite Runner**

Hosseini, Khaled

FIC HOS

5.2

371

The story follows two young Afghan boys, one wealthy, the other a servant's son. They are inseparable as children but when Amir betrays his friend Hussan, their relationship changes dramatically. It takes years for forgiveness to be earned.

**Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery**

Feinstein, John

FIC FEI

4.8

251

Sports and mystery get equal play in this novel set during the Final Four basketball tournament in New Orleans. Two aspiring journalists win a contest to cover the Final Four and along the way over hear a man trying to convince the star player of the Minnesota State Team to throw the championship game against Duke University.

**Left for Dead: The USS Indianapolis and a Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS**

Nelsen, Pete

940.54 NEL

8.3

186

When the USS Indianapolis was sunk at the end of World War II, her captain was blamed and court-martialed. Was it his fault? The survivors didn't think so and spent fifty years trying to clear his name. It took a student working on his History Day Project to clear his name.

**Life of Pi**

Martel, Yann

FIC MAR

5.7

319

Pi Patel is the son of a zookeeper in India. The family makes the move to Canada by hitching a ride on an enormous freighter. After a shipwreck, Pi finds himself on a life boat with a zebra, a hyena, an orangutan, and a 450 lb. Bengal tiger.

Pi uses his knowledge, wit, and faith to stay alive.

**Lost in the Barrens**

Mowat, Farley

FIC MOW

6.6

192

Awasin and Jamie meet a challenge many mountain men could not endure. When their canoe is destroyed, they must face the wilderness with no food and no hope of rescue. Two lost huskies they tame bring companionship and maybe a way home from their dangerous adventure.

**Monster**

Myers, Walter Dean

FIC MYE

5.1

281

Steve Harmon is accused of serving as the lookout for a robbery where the store owner is shot and killed. While in prison and the courtroom, Harmon records his experiences in the form of a movie screen play. He searches deep within his soul to prove to himself that he is not the "monster" the jury was told he was.

**Never Cry Wolf**

Mowat, Farley

599.74 MOW

8.9

164

Hordes of blood thirsty wolves are slaughtering the Arctic caribou and the government's Wildlife Service assigns Mowat to investigate. He is dropped alone onto the frozen tundra. As Mowat comes closer to the wolf world, he comes to believe the government is out to erase the wolf community.

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**No Certain Rest**

Lehrer, Jim FIC LEH 222

On a ridge overlooking Burnside Bridge, the focus of the Battle of Antietam, souvenir hunters find the unmarked grave of an unknown Union Officer but the identification disk in the grave is found to belong to a soldier buried elsewhere. So who was this officer? Why was he killed? Learn the true identity of the Union Officer and why another body resides in his

**Our Time on the River**

Brown, Don FIC BRO 4.8 135

Stephen's older brother, David, is about to ship out to Vietnam when their father sends them on a canoe trip down the Susquashanna River. Along the way, they meet interesting people, help each other out of dangerous situations and learn to fight for each other.

**Overdrive**

Walters, Eric FIC WAL 3.7 102

Jake, having just received his driver's license, borrows his brother's souped-up car, takes his friend Mickey for a ride and gets involved in a street race.

**Power of One**

Courteney, Bryce FIC COU 6.9 291

Peekay, a white English speaking boy in rural South Africa during WWII becomes a talented boxer and dreams of being Welterweight Champion of the World. With virulent racism all around him, Peekay takes on the challenges around him and wins in boxing and in life.

**Shane**

Schaefer, Jack FIC SCH 5.5 151

Shane rode into a small Wyoming town in 1889, a time when homesteaders and cattlemen battled for territory and survival. He became a friend, a guardian, and a hero to the Starrett family.

**Slap your Sides**

Kerr, M.E. FIC KER 4.8 198

As a religious Quaker, Bud Shoemaker registers as a conscientious objector during WWII. Bud and his younger brother Jubal are targeted as slackers and people turn away from them and their family. Some family members don't agree with Bud's decision, especially an Aunt who is married to a Jew and writes him about the atrocities being committed in Nazi Germany. Slap your sides will provoke thought about religion, war, and morality.

**The Birthday Boys**

BainBridge, Beryl FIC BAI 189

A riviting novel of the courage and endurance of Captain Robert Scott's expedition to the South Pole in 1912. This fictionalized account is told in first person narratives by the key members of this doomed expedition.

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***AR Level***

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**The Body of Christopher Creed**

Plum-Ucci, C.

FIC PLU

5.3

331

The often-tortured class weirdo-Chris has disappeared leaving a puzzling note on the school computer. Is he a runaway, a suicide or a murder victim? Three students who have been guilty of harassing Chris try to solve the mystery of his disappearance by trying to steal his diary, but end up implicating themselves in his disappearance as the town is consumed by rumors.

**The Edge: The Only Way Left is Down**

Bo, Ben

FIC BO

5.0

138

When Declan and his friends get caught stealing, the consequences could have been tragic. Instead of being locked up, Declan is given the chance to work at a ski lodge where he learns to snow board and learns that second chances aren't always easy.

**The Element of Surprise: Navy Seals in Vietnam**

Young, Darryl

959.704

274

For six months in 1970, fourteen men in Juliette Platoon of the Navy's Seal Team One- including the author- carried out more than a hundred missions in the Mekong Delta without a single fatality. Their primary mission: kidnap enemy soldiers -alive- for interrogation.

**The Last Lobo**

Smith, Roland

FIC SMI

4.7

178

When Jacob Lansa travels with his grandfather back to the Hopi reservation where he was born, he gets a lot more than a quiet trip to the desert.

**The Things They Carried**

O'Brien, Tim

FIC OBR

5.8

273

"They carried all the emotional baggage of men who might die...They carried shameful memories...They carried the common secret of cowardice...Men killed, and died, because they were embarrassed not to." Every story in this book speaks a truth that Tim O'Brien learned in Vietnam.

**They Cage the Animals at Night**

Burch, Jennings Michael

921 BUR

293

Jennings Burch's mother, too sick to care for him, drops him at an orphanage saying "I'll be right back." She never returned. Shuttled through a series of foster homes and institutions, Jennings finally gains the courage to reach out for love and finds it.

**Too Far**

Lupica, Mike

FIC LUP

290

South Fork High School might have the best basketball team in the nation, but the team manager is dead and a player is brutally assaulted but won't tell who did it. Is the coach to blame or one of the players?



<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Call #</i>	<i>AR Level</i>	<i># of Pages</i>
<i>Description</i>				

**Whale Talk**

Crutcher, Chris	FIC CRU	6.1	220
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T.J. is white, black, and Japanese. After being abandoned by his drug addicted mom, he is adopted by a loving ex-hippie couple. T.J. is smart, funny, and athletic but he has stayed away from organized sports until, in his senior year, he starts a swim team made up of outsiders, misfits, and those considered "losers".