



## **English Language Arts 20-2 Novel and Graphic Novel Choices**

### **English Language Arts 20-2 Novels (choose one)**

#### ***FORBIDDEN CITY* by William Bell**

Involves a teenager, Alex, accompanying his father, a CBC news cameraman, on a trip to China for what he thought would be a vacation. He is in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, the date the world watched the government of China suppress a protest led by students.

#### ***OF MICE AND MEN* by John Steinbeck**

Involves two agricultural labourers during the 1930s moving from job to job. They have dreams, but fears and circumstances prevent fulfillment of their dreams. Steinbeck uses the level of language common to uneducated drifters and labourers, but such language may be offensive to some readers because of coarseness and blasphemy.

#### ***HOLE IN MY LIFE* by Jack Gantos**

In one quick and ill-thought-out decision, a teenager in 1971 decides to try to earn a large sum of money for secondary school through an opportunity to smuggle and then traffic a shipment of illegal drugs to the USA. He is arrested and is sentenced to 6 years in prison at the age of 18.

#### ***HATE LIST* by Jennifer Brown**

Involves a teenage girl, Valerie, who is dealing with the aftermath of a horrific school shooting implicating her boyfriend, and to a much lesser extent, herself. This is a provocative and fast-paced novel containing some violence, difficult situations, and some coarse language.

## English Language Arts 20-2 Graphic Novels (choose one)

### ***ESSEX COUNTY*** by Jeff Lemire

Centers on Lou, an old man who was once a Canadian semi-professional hockey player. Now, in his old age as he remembers his youth, Lou's kind nurse tries desperately to keep him out of trouble and cared for. This graphic novel contains some mildly coarse language, some adult situations, and one mildly suggestive scene.

### ***HOW I MADE IT TO EIGHTEEN*** by Tracy White

This plainly drawn graphic novel centers on the story of a girl named Stacey who ends up at a youth psychiatric wing after suffering a mental breakdown and injuring herself. Stacey's story about attempting to discover the roots of her personal problems and destructive behaviors is explored.

### ***AMERICAN BORN CHINESE*** by Gene Yang

This colorful graphic novel tells the story of Jin Wang, a Chinese-American boy who grows up in a primarily Caucasian neighborhood and school. Jin struggles with bullying and racism alongside all the normal issues of being a teenager, especially attempting to define who he is as a person and who he would like to be.

## Film Choices (choose one)

- Rango (2011)
- Brokedown Palace(1999)
- The invisible (2007)
- Catch Me if You Can(2002)
- October Sky (1999)
- It's Kind of a Funny Story (2010)
- Finding Forrester (2000)
- The Help (2011)