

ENGLISH 20-1 ADULT Novel Choices (choose one)

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN by Garth Stein

Told from an aging dog's point of view, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* follows the lives of the Swift family: Denny, an aspiring race car driver; Eve, Denny's wife who experiences a sudden illness; and Zoe, their three-year-old daughter. Enzo believes that he will be incarnated as a human in his next life and thus spends his days learning about the human condition through his observations, television, and Formula One racing. As a narrator, Enzo is humorous, insightful, and full of wisdom. This novel is both hopeful and heartbreaking and explores the depths of both love and despair.

JUST MERCY by Bryan Stevenson

This memoir focuses on the efforts of the author to free Walter McMillian, an African-American man who was sentenced to the death penalty for the murder of a white woman despite overwhelming evidence of his innocence. Stevenson details McMillian's case to highlight the biases and racial prejudices in the American justice system but also explores the founding of the Equal Justice Initiative and its call for prison sentencing reform. *Just Mercy* examines social justice, poverty, racism, and the need for mercy in our society.

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE by Mitch Albom

Have you ever had that one person in your life who cared enough to listen to you, mentor you, help you find your way? Perhaps for you it was a coach or a parent, maybe even a brother, a sister, or a friend. For Mitch Albom, the person was Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor. Mitch hasn't seen Morrie in almost 20 years, but when he learns his beloved professor is dying, Mitch commits to visiting Morrie every Tuesday, just as he did those many years ago. Even after all these years, Morrie still has a great deal to teach Mitch... and anyone else who will listen. This moving true story will remind you of the power we have to impact one another's lives.

THE GLASS CASTLE by Jeannette Walls

The true story of Jeannette Walls and her wildly unusual childhood. Her family lived like nomads, never staying in one place for too long, and her parents worked only occasionally,

preferring to live life on their own terms. Jeannette’s father was a brilliant man but a heavy drinker and often unreliable. Her mother fancied herself an artist who couldn’t be bothered with something as mundane as cooking dinner for her family. Jeannette and her siblings clung to one another for solace and survival as they stumbled their way through childhood. Despite all of these challenges, the love within this unique family remained.

THE ROSIE PROJECT by Graeme Simsion

Don Tillman is a brilliant but socially-awkward professor who is desperate for a wife. There is only one barrier to his goal: he hasn’t a clue how to interact with other human beings in any kind of socially-appropriate way. So his solution is to use science to help him find a wife. He develops a 16-page survey that he is convinced will help him find the perfect partner. This quirky comedy is all about what happens when Don’s scientific survey doesn’t work quite the way he had planned, and the foul-mouthed barmaid Rosie Jarman walks into his life. This novel is all about the magical, messy, and painfully winding path toward love.

THE 57 BUS by Dashka Slater

This non-fiction text uses a variety of forms (e.g., poetry, lists, letters, social media posts, and text-message conversations) to examine both sides of a tragic incident. Sasha (a white, agender teen) is asleep on the 57 bus in Oakland, California when Richard (an African-American teen) is egged on by his friends and sets fire to Sasha’s skirt. The author uses various sources to highlight issues such as gender identity, racial and class divisions, and flaws in the justice system while also exploring the themes of forgiveness, restorative justice, and community.

Film Choices (choose one)

- [*Elizabethtown*](#) (2005)
- [*Hidden Figures*](#) (2016)
- [*Stranger than Fiction*](#) (2006)
- [*Million Dollar Baby*](#) (2004)
- [*Good Will Hunting*](#) (1997)
- [*Life as a House*](#) (2001)
- [*The Pursuit of Happyness*](#) (2006)