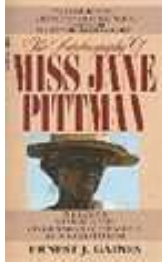




NOVEL LIST

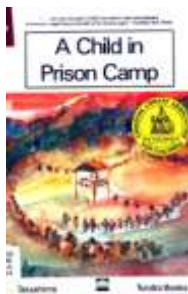
ELA 10-2



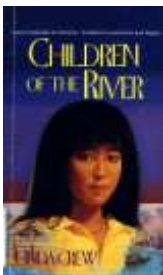
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman is a searching portrayal of life as a black woman living in the deep American south. Ernest Gaines taped Miss Jane Pittman's reminiscences in 1962 when she was already over 100 years old. Her account details the suffering and humiliations that blacks faced in their daily lives. However, through it all, Pittman maintains her faith. As a result, this uplifting perspective celebrates the unfolding of a determined spirit in the face of adversity. Gaines writes in a clear, readable style, using Pittman as the first person narrator.



In **The Blue Sword**, Harry Crewe's father dies, so she leaves her home and travels to the frontier where her elder brother, Richard, is stationed. In this novel, women are shown to be equally powerful and worthy of respect as are men. The relationship between Harry and Corlath (ruler of the neighbouring kingdom) demonstrates the importance of love and respect in keeping people together. Tolerance for other cultures and for the differences between people is encouraged.



In **A Child in Prison Camp**, artist Shizuye Takashima records in words and paintings, her experiences as a child in a prison camp. At the age of 11, she and her family, along with other Japanese Canadians, were removed from their homes on the West coast of Canada and sent by the Canadian government to an internment camp in the interior of British Columbia. The family lost their civil rights, their home, and their business. Takashima vividly describes the actual camp, the housing, the schooling, the humiliation, and the loss of freedom and rights.



In **Children of the River**, Sundara flees Cambodia with her aunt, uncle, grandma and two nephews to the United States, where they struggle to make a living and adapt to a new culture. Sundara falls for an all-American boy, but their different political and cultural backgrounds make a relationship impossible until they are able to reach an understanding of each other's heritage. Sundara also has to face her overwhelming feeling of responsibility for her niece's death.



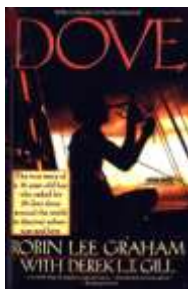
Crabbe is a highly entertaining novel by popular Canadian author William Bell. It captures the wilderness adventure of a mixed-up adolescent. The first-person narrator is Franklin Crabbe, a chatty, funny but troubled eighteen-year-old. Feeling like an outsider and fed up with what he sees as adult hypocrisy, Crabbe runs away from home and goes off to seek freedom. As he learns to survive in the Algonquin Park wilderness, he meets and falls in love with Mary Pallas, a kind woman who has her own secrets to hide. Through his relationship with her, Crabbe finds his identity and purpose, ultimately taking the help she gave him to become independent, be himself and learn to survive in a confused, often irrational world. (Crabbe contains minor contextualized coarse language, references to mercy killing and a few sexual references.)



Dare is the name of the angry and confused 15-year-old who, with his 12-year-old brother, Ty, have lived with their grandmother in the same small Alberta town for five years. When they are left orphaned after her stroke, Laura McConnell, a substitute teacher and rancher, lets them live with her. Dare is the typical rebel character—swearing, drinking and driving, fighting, and even spending some time in jail. However, Dare matures as he learns to accept responsibility and confronts his part in his mother's death.



Deathwatch, a fast-moving and easy-reading narrative, revolves around the tale of Ben, a young geology student working as a hunting guide. Ben finds himself locked in an intense struggle to survive when the expedition he is on turns into a manhunt. Deathwatch presents clear contrasts in setting, mood and character types. A study of foreshadowing, symbolism, conflict and plot could also be undertaken. The ending, although abrupt, provides opportunity for open-ended discussion and various writing projects relating to decision making and the question of ethics



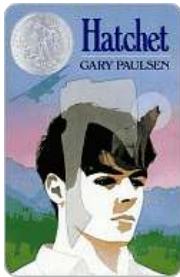
Dove At the age of sixteen, Robin Graham journeyed 30 000 nautical sea miles with his cats on a twenty-four foot sloop. Along the way, he became homesick, was joined by his father and friends, met his future wife Patti in Fiji, married her in Africa, and later returned home expecting their first child. Graham presents this odyssey chronologically, and has included photographs of different people and experiences from his journey.



In **Fish House Secrets**, Chad and his father arrive at his Nova Scotia grandparent's house, and it is here where Chad mourns and accepts his mother's death. He meets Jill, a Halifax runaway, and while helping her elude the authorities, Chad comes to terms with his own grief, guilt and rebellion. References to emerging sexuality and abortion reveal empathy for others and are dealt with sensitively.

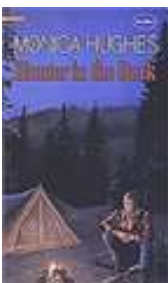


The Great Escape is a suspenseful and spine-chilling thriller in which a World War II POW tells how more than six hundred British and American air force officers escaped from Stalag Luft III. Under cunning leadership, these prisoners outsmarted, even manipulated, their Nazi captors into unwittingly assisting them in their escape; which was made possible through persistence, camaraderie, humour and the coordination of a multitude of talents. The author follows the experiences of key individuals through to eventual escape or death, and includes the later war trials and the sentencing of the Nazi officers who ran the stalag.



The engaging story of **Hatchet** unfolds as 13-year-old Brian Robson flies to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness. The pilot of the plane dies from a massive heart attack. Brian crash-lands the plane in a remote lake and survives a twomonth ordeal with only a hatchet, a few camping skills, and his instinct for survival.

This action-packed adventure offers plot detail and character development. Students should be interested in the physical and emotional growth of Brian, as well as his ability to cope with insurmountable odds.



In **Hunter in the Dark**, 16-year-old Mike Rankin comes to terms with himself, his family and his fear of death. The author develops relationships and conflicts through a rapidly moving plot with realistic characters and dialogue. The survival theme is developed through the goal of taking one more hunting trip.

Tact and delicacy should be used in dealing with the mortality theme in this novel as many students have some personal knowledge of someone who has, or had, a terminal illness. The family's attitude of denial in this story may mirror the students' own experiences. This novel could facilitate discussions leading to creative writing and/or research.

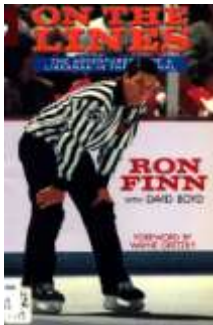


Set in the United States during the Industrial Revolution, **Lyddie** is a story of unions and personal courage. It follows Lyddie, a young girl who goes to work in the garment factories where she learns to weave and read—thereby finding her future. Lyddie’s struggle for independence, for her rights as a woman, and for her rights as a factory worker, reflect the social conditions of that time.

The novel should encourage interesting discussions on character development, on the conflict between right and wrong, and on the value of education. Gender references, and the treatment of the birth of a child out of wedlock according to the social mores of the 1800s, are also potential topics. Some students might be interested in researching the emergence of unions and women’s rights.

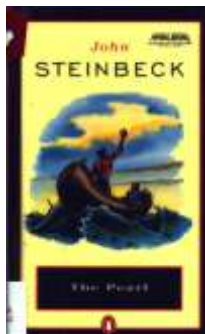
Missing

In his fictional narrative, **Never Cry Wolf**, Farley Mowat embarks on a mission to investigate claims about the wolves’ role in the diminishing caribou population. Isolated in the frozen tundra among howling wolf packs, Mowat develops a respect and admiration for these animals. The narrative is developed with humorous recollections of encounters between man and animal. In his journal, Mowat writes of observations, enlightened feelings and lonely encounters with the wolves. His findings conclude that the wolves have been wrongfully blamed for the destruction of other animals in the North.



In **On the Lines**, Ron Finn tells a story of hockey from another point of view—that of a linesman in the National Hockey League. After he realizes he will not make the “big” league as a player, Finn begins to take up officiating. As a linesman, he is able to relate many important hockey incidents from the best view in the house. Finn’s love of hockey has continued throughout his life. To him, hockey is a part of Canadian culture and tradition, and he displays a positive outlook toward life and people through his association with hockey.

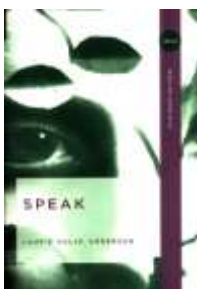
This book will appeal to any student who has a strong interest in sports. Finn talks of not only the hockey players from the 1970s and 1980s, but also of others who are behind the “stars.” He reinforces the view that, in order for a sport to continue at any level, there must be more than the “stars.”



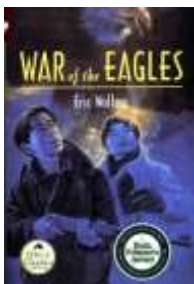
The Pearl tells the story of a Mexican pearl diver, Kino, and his wife who discover a valuable pearl. To Kino, this prize symbolizes comfort, security, health and happiness; and his dreams become larger and more urgent. Three attempts are made on Kino's life as thieves try to steal the pearl.

Desperation and greed alter the lives of all who covet the wealth of the pearl.

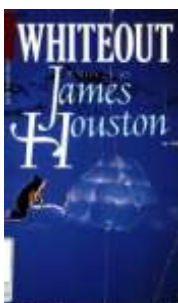
In this novel, Steinbeck captures the ethnic flavour of this Mexican family, using a smooth-flowing style; many references reflect the rich musical heritage of the people. Detailed descriptions of the land and sea are presented.



Speak is a painful but redemptive young adult novel about a Grade 9 student suppressing and eventually dealing with the trauma of a rape. The narrator, Melinda Sordino, is a high school freshman who is struggling in school and feels like an outsider. Gradually the reader learns the reason for her depression and withdrawal: during the summer she was raped by another student. In the ending, she finally confronts her attacker, thereby learning to stand up for herself and to become more self-empowered. Melinda's final character change is inspiring and progressive; she finds her literal and figurative voice and learns to "speak" up against what is wrong and unjust.



War of the Eagles is set in World War II on the West Coast of Canada. This young adult novel is about an Aboriginal youth, Jed, who is torn between loyalty to his country or his Japanese-Canadian friend. While his father is away flying fighter planes in Europe, Jed and his mother work at the nearby military base. Jed's world is shaken when his best friend Tandashi and his family, along with all the other Japanese-Canadians in the community, are declared enemies by the government and sent away to detention camps. The theme of Walters' book is about choosing what one personally believes is right. This is symbolized through Jed's release of a bald eagle that was being contained on the military base after he and Tandashi nursed it back to health.



Jonathan Aird, the protagonist of **Whiteout**, is a rebellious and fatherless 17-year-old city boy who is sent to a remote Arctic settlement on Baffin Island to fulfill his community work requirements as part of a rehabilitation program. Jonathan must come to terms with the harsh reality of the environment. While doing so, he matures and learns to accept responsibility for his actions.

Jonathan's self-discovery is paralleled by his initial stereotyping of the Inuit and his final understanding of their ways. As he

learns to admire their strength and courage, he develops into a mature young man. A strong emphasis on action and plot is highlighted by accurate descriptions of life in the Arctic.

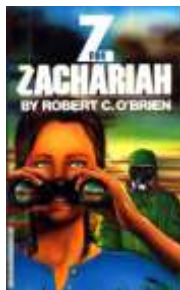


In **Why Shoot the Teacher?**, Braithwaite writes about his first year of teaching in a small school district during the Dirty Thirties. He talks, in a series of light and humorous anecdotes, of the Depression years and the people who survived them. His experiences with school dances, Christmas concerts and political rallies present a good description of social activities in rural Saskatchewan.

The author's style is direct. He creates a concise set of episodes that facilitate easily organizable units for classroom discussion. The vocabulary is medium range. The point of view is that of an insecure, self-doubting young man who encounters employment, meager subsistent living, and poverty on the prairies. The book is recommended, not only for its historical perspective, but also for its readability and humour.



Yuletide Blues begins when Lanny, a young hockey player, plans to stay with his favourite aunt while his parents are on holidays. Before their departure, this aunt, an artistic eccentric, attempts suicide and Lanny must go to a reclusive great-aunt's place. During his stay, he breaks his leg, and discovers that his best friend has become a thief. Lanny comes to terms with individual differences and deals with the emotional, physical and psychological limitations of both aunts.



In **Z for Zachariah**, sixteen-year-old Ann Burden believes she is the last survivor of an atomic war. She has subsisted by eating "safe" food from the nearby village store, farming her father's land as best she can, and keeping her sanity by writing a diary. The discovery of another individual, Loomis, leads to doubt and confusion, resulting in an escape from the comfortable valley. The conclusion amplifies Ann's courage and desire for self-preservation.