

# Rise to the Challenge!

This year you get to choose which books you read – wahoo! The most important thing is regularly reading books you enjoy, and, like a runner who is building endurance, at a pace that works best for you. Also important is a good challenge, right? That’s why I’ve compiled a list of books that I challenge you to read this year.

**And because it’s a challenge, you will be rewarded with fame and notoriety!**

Every time you finish a book from this challenge list, I will give you a notecard to decorate as you see fit with your name and your **impression** (impression = idea, feeling, or opinion) of the book. Draw a picture, write a short review, highlight a single phrase that sums up what you think about the book. It’s up to you!



When you are finished, we will post your card on the challenge board. The more books you read, the more recognition you will get. Read all thirty books, and who knows what might just happen...READER OF THE YEAR, perhaps?

Try to step outside your comfort zone a little bit with this list... read fiction and nonfiction, try out a new author, read a book with a main character of the opposite gender, push yourself to read books that are challenging to you.

**What about all the great books that aren’t on this list? *Challenge the Challenge List...***

There are so many amazing books out there that are not on this list. Yet. If you read one such book and feel strongly that it belongs on the Official Challenge List, then tell me about it. If you are persuasive, I will add your title.

**One last thing...**

Some of the books on this list are tough reads, but many are not. If you would like help finding a book that suits your ability, then just talk with me or Ms. Palmer!

**Novels—All Genres:**

1. *The House of the Scorpion*, Nancy Farmer
2. *Copper Sun*, Sharon Draper\*
3. *Monster*, Walter Dean Myers
4. *The Book Thief*, Marcus Zusak
5. *Coffee Will Make You Black*, April Sinclair\*
6. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie\*
7. *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins
8. *Unwind*, Neal Shusterman

**CYRM Nominees 2015**

9. *Cinder*, Marissa Meyer
10. *Eleanor and Park*, Rainbow Rowell
11. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Ransom Riggs

**Novels—Classics**

12. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain
13. *1984* or *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
14. *My Antonia*, Willa Cather
15. *The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien
16. *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
17. *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
18. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott
19. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Memoirs/Biography—Nonfiction**

20. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou\*
21. *Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer
22. *Long Way Gone*, Ishmael Beah\*
23. *Blankets*, Craig Thompson
24. *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls
25. *Bad Boy*, Walter Dean Myers
26. *Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank

**Nonfiction**

27. *Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand
28. *Nickel and Dime*, Barbara Ehrenreich
29. *Freakonomics*, Steven Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
30. *Blink*, *The Tipping Point*, *Outliers*, or *What the Dog Saw*, Malcolm Gladwell
31. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, James L. Swanson