

SENIOR ISU NOVEL SUGGESTIONS for SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS

Agriculture

A Thousand Acres Jane Smiley (farming in Iowa)

Crow Lake Mary Lawson (farming)

Dance of the Happy Shades Alice Munro (short stories--fox farming)

Fair and Tender Ladies Lee Smith (subsistence farming)

Smoke Elizabeth Ruth (tobacco farming)

The Cure for Death by Lightning Gail Anderson-Dargatz (farming)

Arts and Culture

Art

Carving

The Stone Carvers Jane Urquhart (carving Vimy Ridge memorial)

Film and Theatre

Murder and Walking Spirits Robertson Davies (film)

Spadework Timothy Findley (theatre/Stratford)

The Book of Illusions Paul Auster (silent film)

The Englishman's Boy Guy Vanderhaeghe (film)

The Film Club David Gilmour (film)

Music

A Complicated Kindness Marian Toews (Mennonite culture, pop music of the '70s)

The Accordion Crimes Annie Proulx (music)

The Commitments Roddy Doyle (pop group)

The Piano Tuner Daniel Mason (piano playing)

Whale Music Paul Quarrington (music/composition)

Photography

After Image Helen Humphreys (early photography)

Portrait of the Artist

An Artist of the Floating World Kazuo Ishiguro (Japanese art theory)

Girl in Hyacinth Blue Susan Vreeland (Vermeer, Dutch painter)

Girl With a Pearl Earring Tracy Chevalier (Vermeer, Dutch painter)

In Tiffany's Shadow Susan Vreeland (Tiffany glass)

Life Studies Susan Vreeland (Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters)

Luncheon of the Boating Party Susan Vreeland (based on Renoir's painting)

My Name is Asher Lev Chaim Potok (artist)

The Forest Lover Susan Vreeland (life of Emily Carr)

The Mountain and the Valley Ernest Buckler (artist)

The Passion of Artemisia Susan Vreeland (Italian, life of Artemisia Gentileschi)

The Underpainter Jane Urquhart (life of an artist)

Visual Arts

Alias Grace Margaret Atwood (quilting theme)

The Da Vinci Code Dan Brown (art history)

The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde (painting)

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall Anne Bronte (painting)

Writing

Generica Will Ferguson (writing)

Culture

Afghani

A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini (Afganistan)

The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini (Afganistan)

Asian

Daughters of the Red Land Yan Li (Chinese culture)

Memoirs of a Geisha Arthur Golden (Japan)

Obason Joy Kogawa (autobiography--Japanese Canadian culture)

Saving Fish From Drowning Amy Tan (Chinese American culture conflict)

Shogun James Clavell (Japan)

Snow Falling on Cedars David Guterson (Japanese American culture conflict)

The Bone Setter's Daughter Amy Tan (Chinese American culture conflict)

The Hundred Secret Senses Amy Tan (Chinese American culture conflict)

The Joy Luck Club Amy Tan (Chinese American culture conflict)

The Kitchen God's Wife Amy Tan (Chinese American culture conflict)

Latin American

Daughter of Fortune Isabelle Allende (Latin American culture)

Eva Luna Isabelle Allende (Latin American culture)

Portrait in Sepia Isabelle Allende (Latin American culture)

The House of the Spirits Isabelle Allende (Latin American culture)

Mennonite

A Complicated Kindness Miriam Toews (Mennonite culture)

Peace Shall Destroy Many Rudy Wiebe (Mennonite culture)

The Russlanders Sandra Birdsell (Mennonite culture)

Watermelon Syrup Annie Jacobson (Mennonite culture)

North American Pop Culture

The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test Tom Wolfe (1960s American culture)

Native American/Canadian

Ravensong Lee Maracle (native Canadian culture)

The Education of Little Tree Forrest Carter (native American culture)

Business

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz Mordecai Richler (real estate, film making)

The Color Purple Alice Walker (tailoring)

The Scent of Sake Joyce Lebra (Japanese Sake business)

The Van Roddy Doyle (french fry business)

Community and Emergency Services

Alive Scott P. Werther (survival in the Andes N.D. cannibalism involved)

Barometer Rising Hugh MacLennan (the Halifax exposition of 1917)

Blindness Jose Saramago (epidemic blindness)

Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury (futuristic firemen)

Construction

Beneath the Marble Sky: a novel of the Taj Mahal John Shors

Empire Rising Thomas Kelly (building of Empire State Building)

House Tracy Kidder (house construction)

In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden Kathleen Cambor (Johnstown Pennsylvania Dam)

In the Skin of a Lion Michael Ondaatje (building of Bloor Street Viaduct, Toronto)

Jude the Obscure Thomas Hardy (architect, stone mason)
The Mosquito Coast Paul Theroux (home building)
The Pillars of the Earth Ken Follett (medieval cathedral building)
The Three-Arched Bridge Ismail Kadare (bridge building)

Energy

A Planet for the President Alistair Beaton (political satire)
A Friend of the Earth T.C. Boyle
Antartica Kim Stanley Robinson
Blockade Derek Hansen (logging)
Ecotopia: The Notebooks and Reports of William Weston Ernest Callenbach (utopian)
Far North Marcel Theroux
Forty Signs of Rain Kim Stanley Robinson
Ill Wind Kevin J. Anderson and Doug Beason (world after Oil)
Last Light Alex Scarrow (thriller, peak-oil)
Make Room! Make Room! Harry Harrison (dystopian sci-fi)
Retrieved from the Future John Seymour (sci-Fi)
Solar Ian McEwan (climate change)
State of Fear Michael Crichton (techno-thriller)
The Carbon Diaries 2015 Saci Lloyd (energy ration)
The Forgotten Enemy Arthur C. Clarke (climate change) (short story found in *The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke*)
The Gods Themselves Isaac Asimov (sci-fi)
The Monkeywrench Gang Edward Abbey (environmentalists, eco-terrorism)
The Road Cormac McCarthy
The Shell Game Steve Alten (political thriller, 9/11 truth novel)
The Year of the Flood Margaret Atwood (natural disaster)
Ultimatum Matthew Glass (futuristic sci-fi global warming)
World Made by Hand James Howard Kunstler (post-industrial dystopia)

Forestry

Our Lady of the Forest David Guterson (forest survival)
The Education of Little Tree Forrest Carter (aboriginal way of life)
The Golden Spruce John Vaillant (non-fiction, B.C. lumber industry)

Health and Wellness

Abuse

The Book of Ruth Jane Hamilton (spousal abuse)
The Gathering Anne Enright (sexual abuse, grief)
The Girl with the Botticelli Face V.D. Valgardson (sexual abuse)
The Shipping News Annie Proulx (mental health, sexual abuse)
The Woman Who Walked into Doors Roddy Doyle (alcoholism, spousal abuse)

Alcoholism/Drug Abuse

Lullabies for Little Criminals Heather O'Neill (drug, sexual abuse)
The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test Tom Wolfe (drug abuse)
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall Anne Bronte (alcoholism)

The Woman Who Walked into Doors Roddy Doyle (alcoholism, spousal abuse)

Disease/Disability/Syndromes

Blindness Jose Saramago (epidemic blindness)

Deafening Frances Itani (deafness)

Paula Isabelle Allende (non-fiction—coma brought on by porphyria)

The Ash Garden Dennis Bock (effects of radiation poisoning)

The Butterfly and the Diving Bell Jean-Dominique Bauby (autobiography--locked-in syndrome)

The Cure for Death by Lightning Gail Anderson-Dargatz (Tourette's syndrome)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time Mark Haddon (autism)

The Story of My Life Helen Keller (autobiography—deaf/blind)

Geriatrics

Sunset Manor Richard B. Wright (geriatrics)

The Bone Setter's Daughter Amy Tan (dementia)

The Stone Angel Margaret Laurence (geriatrics)

Mental/Psychological Health

Alias Grace Margaret Atwood (psychological health)

An Audience of Chairs Joan Clark (mental health)

As For Me and My House Sinclair Ross (mental health)

Beloved Toni Morrison (sanity)

Catch 22 Joseph Heller (mental health)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Ken Kesey (mental health)

Opium Dreams Margaret Gibson (mental health)

Pilgrim Timothy Findley (mental health)

Prozac Nation Elizabeth Wartzel (non-fiction--clinical depression)

She's Come Undone Wally Lamb (mental health)

Sweet Poison Margaret Gibson (short stories—mental health)

Tender is the Night F. Scott Fitzgerald (mental health)

The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath (sanity, suicide)

The Book of Illusions Paul Auster (depression)

The Eden Express: A Memoir of Insanity Mark Vonnegut (autobiography—schizophrenia)

The Gathering Ann Enright (sexual abuse, grief)

The Hours Michael Cunningham (mental health)

The House of the Spirits Isabelle Allende (mental health)

The Piano Man's Daughter Timothy Findley (mental health)

The Shipping News Annie Proulx (mental health, sexual abuse)

The Turn of the Screw Henry James (mental health)

Unless Carol Shields (mental health)

Practice/Treatment

Bloodletting and Other Cures Vincent Lam (short stories—medical)

Quarantine Jim Crace (medical miracles)

Saturday Ian McEwan (surgery)

Smoke Elizabeth Ruth (smoking, burn victims, gender identity)

The English Patient Michael Ondaatje (burn victim)

The Good Doctor Damon Galgut (medicine)

Trauma

Fugitive Pieces Anne Michaels (post-war trauma)

Head Hunter Timothy Findley (post-war trauma)
Sophie's Choice William Stryon (post-war trauma)

General

Brave New World Aldous Huxley (genetic engineering)
Middlesex Jeffrey Eugenides (gender issues)
She's Come Undone Wally Lamb (diet)
Smoke Elizabeth Ruth (smoking, burn victims, gender identity)

Horticulture and Landscaping

Larry's Party Carol Shields (landscaping—mazes)
The Lost Garden Helen Humphreys (horticulture)
The Stone Diaries Carol Shields (horticultural columnist)

Hospitality and Tourism

Fall on Your Knees Ann-Marie MacDonald (food)
Like Water for Chocolate Laura Esquivel (cooking)
Memoirs of a Geisha Arthur Golden (Japan)

Information and Communication Technology

1984 George Orwell (futuristic)
2001: A Space Odyssey (futuristic)
Exegesis AstroTeller (futuristic--artificial intelligence)
iPod Douglas Coupland (computers)
Late Nights on Air Elizabeth Hay (radio)
Microserfs Douglas Coupland (computers)
Overclocked: Stories of the future present Cory Doctorow
The Shipping News Annie Proulx (newspaper)

Justice and Community Safety

A Clockwork Orange Anthony Burgess (psychological conditioning)
Class Action Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy Gansler (non-fiction sexual harassment law)
Crime and Punishment Fyodor Dostoevsky, translated by Constance Garnett (suspense, literary novel)
Dead Man Walking Sister Helen Prejean (non-fiction death penalty)
In Cold Blood Truman Capote (non-fiction account of 1959 murder in Kansas)
Invisible Man Ralph Ellison (race, hypocrisies, stereotypes)
My Sister's Keeper Jodi Picoult (medical emancipation)
19 Minutes Jodi Picoult (school shooting)
Oliver Twist Charles Dickens (social criticism, poverty, crime)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Ken Kesey (mental health)
Presumed Innocent Scott Turow (legal thriller)
Standing at the Scratch Line: A Novel Guy Johnson
The Corrections Jonathan Franzen (mystery of family life)
The Talented Mr. Ripley Patricia Highsmith (crime novel)
The Trial Franz Kafka (false accusation)
To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee (prejudice, fair-trial)
Tomorrow We Die Shawn Grady (paramedic)

Manufacturing

The Mosquito Coast Paul Theroux (invention)
The Scent of Sake Joyce Lebra (Japanese Sake business)

Mining

A Prayer for Owen Meany John Irving (rock quarry)
Gardening at Night Diane Awerbuck (mining)
How Green Was My Valley Richard Llewellyn (Wales mining)
No Great Mischief Alistair MacLeod (uranium mining)

The Environment

A Thousand Acres Jane Smiley (pesticides)
Alive Scott P. Werther (survival in the Andes N.D. cannibalism involved)
Crow Lake Mary Lawson (biologist)
Death on the Ice *Cassie Brown* (non-fiction--survival on ice floes near Newfoundland)
Elle Douglas Glover (survival in Newfoundland)
Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad (African jungle)
Into the Wild Jon Krakauer (non-fiction, survival in Alaska)
Into Thin Air Jon Krakauer (non-fiction, climbing Mt. Everest)
Life of Pi Yann Martel (survival of the sea)
Lord of the Flies William Golding (isolation/survival on a tropical island)
Oryx and Crake Margaret Atwood (apocalyptic survival)
Roughing it in the Bush Susanna Moodie (autobiography—pioneer)
Surfacing Margaret Atwood (survival theme—Northern Ontario)
The Backwoods of Canada Catherine Parr Trail (autobiography—pioneer)
The Living Annie Dillard (settlement of Washington state)
The Navigator of New York Wayne Johnston (exploring the North Pole)
The Old Man and the Sea Ernest Hemingway (fishing)
The Road Cormac McCarthy (apocalyptic survival)
Three Day Road Joseph Boyden (Northern Ontario)

Transportation

Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad (travelling the Congo)
Leaving Earth Helen Humphreys (early aviation—Amelia Earhart)
On the Road Jack Kerouac (autobiography--road trip)
The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test Tom Wolfe (road trip)
The Flying Troutmans Miriam Toews (road trip)
The Grapes of Wrath John Steinbeck (road trip)
The Last Crossing Guy Vanderhaeghe (pioneer travel)
The Motorcycle Diaries Ernesto Guevara (road trip)
The Road Cormac McCarthy (survival road trip)
Volkswagon Blues Jacques Poulin (road trip)
Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance Robert M. Pirsig (road trip)