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
Murther and Walking Spirits Robertson Davies (film)
Spadework Timothy Findley (theatre/Stratford)
The Book of Illusions Paul Auster (silent film)
The Englishman’s Boy Guy Vandenhaeghe (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)

Portait 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 (Afghanistan)
The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan)

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 Setters 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 Gods 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  Maragaret 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)
jPod 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)