



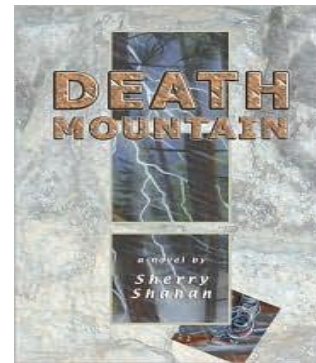
What to give, what to read:

The Library has some suggestions for teen gifts or for borrowing from the collection to keep busy over the holiday break.

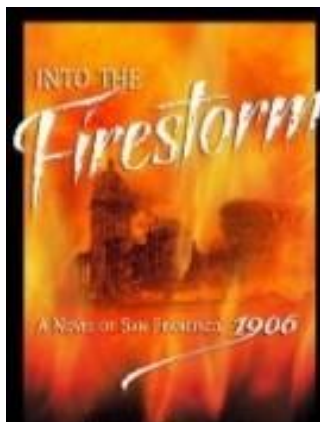
For Middle Schoolers: Page-Turning Tales of Adventure, Survival and Spies.



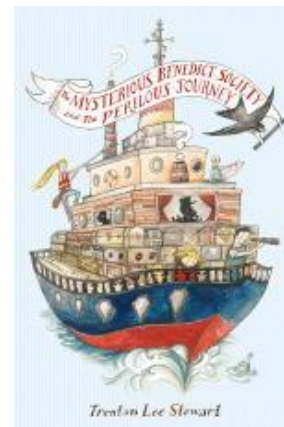
Peak,
by Roland Smith.
A fourteen-year-old attempts to be the youngest person to scale Mt. Everest to reconnect with his estranged dad.



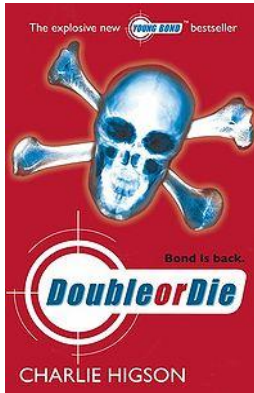
Death Mountain,
by Sherry Shahan.
While traveling to visit the mother she has not heard from in almost a year, Erin becomes lost in the rugged Sierra Nevada mountains and must struggle to survive.



Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906,
by Deborah Hopkinson.
Days after arriving in San Francisco, eleven-year-old orphan Nicholas Dray tries to help his new neighbors survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.



The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey,
by Trenton Lee Stewart.
The graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict. For younger teens.



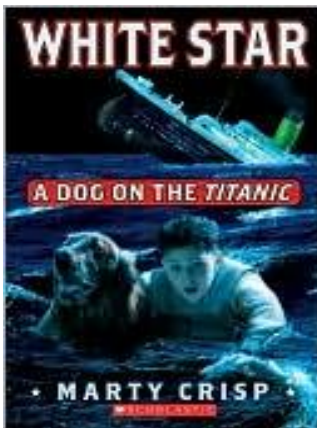
Double or Die: A James Bond Adventure, by Charles Higson.

Teenage James Bond is on the case when a professor is kidnapped in a north London cemetery, and an encoded letter arrives which, once deciphered, leaves James with just forty-eight hours to rescue the captured scholar and save the world.



Ark Angel, by Anthony Horowitz.

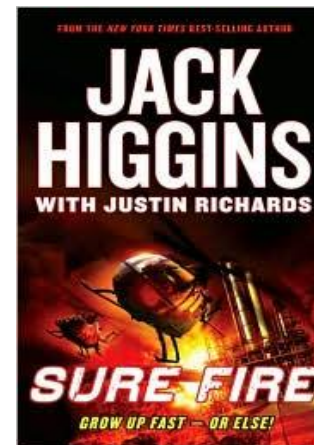
After recovering from a near fatal gunshot wound, teenage spy Alex Rider embarks on a new mission to stop a group of eco-terrorists from sabotaging the launch of the first outer space hotel.



White Star: a Dog on the Titanic,

by Marty Crisp.

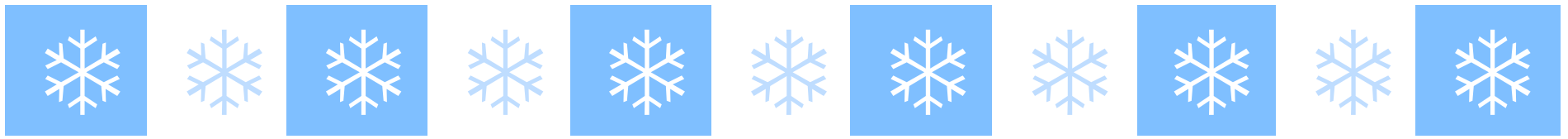
Twelve-year-old Sam, a passenger on the Titanic's maiden sea voyage, volunteers to help care for the dogs in the ocean liner's kennel and becomes fast friends with the Irish setter of J. Bruce Ismay, the ship's owner. For younger teens.



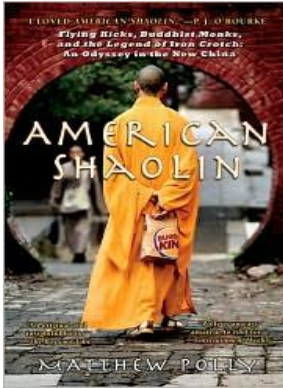
Sure Fire,

by Jack Higgins.

Resentful of having to go and live with their estranged father after the death of their mother, fifteen-year-old twins Rich and Jade soon find they have more complicated problems when their father is kidnapped and their attempts to rescue him involve them in a dangerous international plot to control the world's oil.



For Upper Schoolers: *Travel the World in Fiction and Non-Fiction.*



American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: Adventures in the New China,

by Matthew Polly.

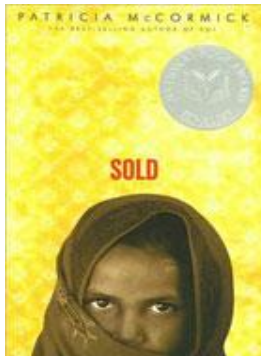
Humorous and observant memoir of a young man whose decision to

transform his nerdy self into a martial artist takes him on a quest from Kansas to the Shaolin Temple of China, ancient home of the fighting monks.



Looking for Alaska,

by John Green.
A sophisticated story of students in boarding school helping each other understand love, death, and the "Great Perhaps." In the tradition of *A Separate Peace* and *Catcher in the Rye*. For older teen readers.



Sold,

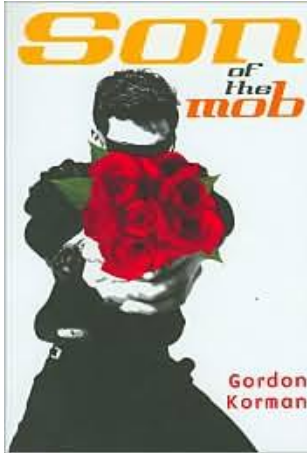
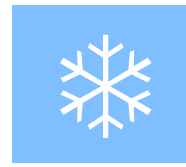
by Patricia McCormick.

Lakshmi, a young girl in Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India to work off her family's debt. The devastating story tells of her trauma and of those who help her find a new life.



I am the Messenger,

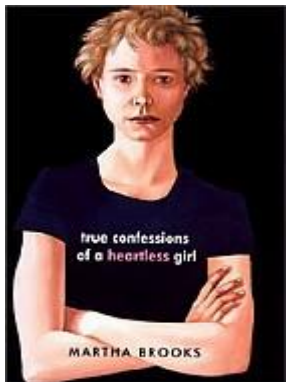
by Markus Zusak.
Ed, a 19-year-old cab driver whose life isn't going so well, stops a bank robbery and then begins to receive messages directing him to others in need. His reaction to these messages transforms him into a genuine, but unsentimental, hero. Lurking beneath the story is the question: who is sending the messages, and why?



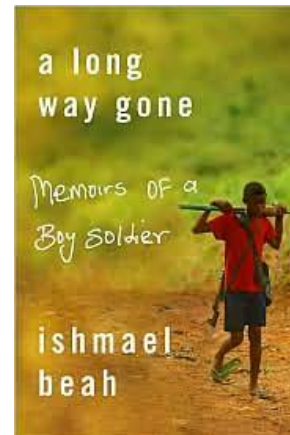
Son of the Mob,
by Gordon Korman.
Seventeen-year-old Vince leads a complicated life because of his family's "vending machine" business, which he's determined to avoid. Things become a lot more complicated when Vince falls for the daughter of an FBI agent investigating organized crime.



The House of the Scorpion,
by Nancy Farmer.
A futuristic novel in which Matt, the protagonist, is a clone of El Patron, a drug lord who rules the country of Opium and the computer-controlled people who work the fields. The story follows Matt's growing awareness of what it means to be human, the value of life, and the responsibilities of a society.



True Confessions of a Heartless Girl,
by Martha Brooks.
Noreen has a talent for trouble, and finds more as she drives off in the night to a small Canadian town, where she discovers that community and friendship can heal some of the wounds of her past.



A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier,
by Ishmael Beah.
The author, now a 25-year-old American college graduate, was abducted into the Sierra Leone army as a child, and found himself transformed into a soldier capable of terrible cruelty.

Happy holidays!