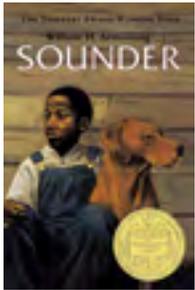


Book Summaries

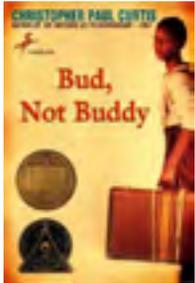
3rd - 5th Grade Books

***Souder* by William H. Armstrong**



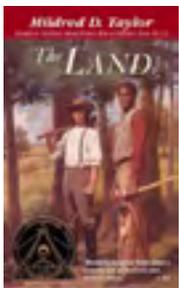
Set in the Deep South, this Newbery Medal winning novel tells the story of the great coon dog, Souder, and the poor sharecroppers who own him. During the difficult years of the nineteenth century South, an African American boy and his poor family rarely have enough to eat. When food suddenly appears on the table one morning, it seems like a blessing. But the sheriff and his deputies are not far behind. The ever-loyal Souder remains determined to help the family he loves as hard times bear down on them. This classic novel shows the courage, love, and faith that bind an African-American family together despite the racism and inhumanity they face.

***Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis**



Bud, Not Buddy is a tender story about an orphaned African American living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression. The main character, Bud, decides to try and find his father. The only clue his mother left him was several flyers about a band in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

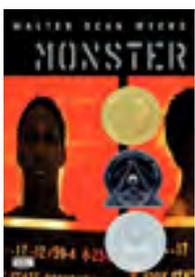
***The Land* by Mildred Taylor**



The son of a prosperous landowner and a former slave, Paul-Edward Logan is unlike any other boy he knows. His white father has acknowledged him and raised him openly—something unusual in post-Civil War Georgia. But as he grows into a man he learns that life for someone like him is not easy. At the age of fourteen, he sets out toward the only dream he has ever had: to find land every bit as good as his father's, and make it his own. Once again inspired by her own history, Ms. Taylor brings truth and power to the newest addition to the award-winning Logan family stories.

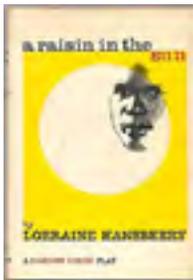
6th - 8th Grade Books

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**



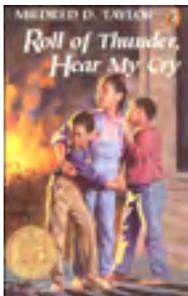
A sixteen year old boy named Steve Harmon finds himself on trial for murder after he is accused as acting as a lookout for the young men who actually commit a robbery at a Harlem drugstore and kill the store owner. The story is presented predominantly from his own viewpoint in the form of a screenplay and journal entries that he writes, as he faces the trial and possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry**



A Raisin in the Sun examines the effects of racial prejudice on the fulfillment of an African-American family's dreams. The play centers on the Youngers, a working-class family that lives in Chicago's South Side during the mid-twentieth century. Shortly before the play begins, the head of the Younger family, Big Walter, dies, leaving the family to inherit a \$10,000 life insurance payment. The family eagerly awaits the arrival of the insurance check, which has the potential to make the family's long deferred dreams into reality. However, the members of the Younger family have conflicting ideas — conflicting dreams — regarding the best use for the money, which causes tension.

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor**



This is a book about an African American family in Mississippi in the 1930's, told from the point of view of the only daughter, Cassie Logan, a fourth-grader. It shows the harsh realities of segregation, racism, and the oppression of blacks in the South during this time period. The book is mainly about the Logan children becoming more acquainted with the social issues of their world, feeling the injustice, and being powerless to change the status quo.

9th - 12th Grade Books

47 by Walter Mosley



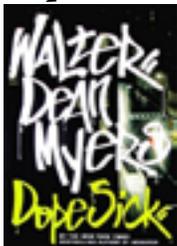
47 is about fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom.

***Flygirl* by Sherri Smith**



Ida Mae Jones dreams of flight. Ida Mae's father was a pilot and being black didn't stop him from fulfilling his dreams. When America enters the war with Germany and Japan, the Army creates WASP, the Women Air Force Service Pilots — and Ida suddenly sees a way to fly as well as do something significant to help her brother stationed in the Pacific. But even the WASP won't accept her as a black woman, forcing Ida Mae to make a difficult choice of pretending to be white to be accepted into the program.

***Dope Sick* by Walter Dean Myers**



Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, seventeen-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a weird man, who shows different turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices.