

Palahniuk, Chuck

*Fight Club*

*In a confusing world poised on the brink of mayhem, Tyler Durden, a projectionist, waiter, and anarchic genius, comes up with an idea to create clubs in which young men can escape their humdrum existence and prove themselves in barehanded fights*

Potok, Chaim

*My Name is Asher Lev*

*Records the anguish and triumphs of a young painter as he emerges into the great world of art and rejects all else.*

Richter, Conrad

*The Light in the Forest*

*True Son had been born into a frontier family, but all he could remember, all that he loved, was Native American. Now, at fifteen, he was ordered to go back to the white man, whom he had learned to hate. Where did he belong--and where could he go?*

Roth, Philip

*Portnoy's Complaint*

*A New York lawyer, dominated by a demanding Jewish mother, plays out a sexual revenge in fact and fantasy.*

Salinger, J.D.

*Catcher in the Rye*

*Since his debut in 1951 as The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield has been synonymous with "cynical adolescent." Holden narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school, in a slang that sounds edgy even today and keeps this novel on banned book lists.*

Shteyngart, Gary

*The Russian Debutante's Handbook*

*In a novel about being an outsider in America and what it means to be an American, Vladimir, a*

*young Russian-American immigrant, pursues his dreams of success, wealth, and a girlfriend, as his quest takes him deep into uncharted territory.*

Stevenson, Robert Louis

*The Black Arrow : a tale of the two roses*

*In fifteenth-century England, when his father's murderer is revealed to be his guardian, seventeen-year-old Richard Shelton joins the fellowship of the Black Arrow in avenging the death, rescuing the woman he loves, and participating in the struggle between the Yorks and Lancasters in the War of the Roses.*

Toole, John

*A Confederacy of Dunces*

*A fat New Orleans misanthrope who constantly rebukes society, Ignatius Reilly, gets a job at his mother's urging but ends up leading a worker's revolt*

Tropper, Jonathan

*Everything Changes*

*As his wedding day approaches, Zachary King begins to wonder if his entire life might be a big mistake, doubts that are only enhanced by the arrival of Norm, Zack's freewheeling, overbearing father, after a twenty-year absence.*

Winton, Tim

*Breath*

*Falling under the spell of an enigmatic extreme-sport surfer, a thrill-seeking pair of western Australian adolescents is initiated into a world of high-stakes adventures and dangerous boundary testing.*



Mount Vernon City Library  
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# Books for The Cool Dude



at the  
Mount Vernon  
City Library

*Young men coming of age and making their way  
in the world*

Books having to do with young men coming of age and making their way in the world.

Caldwell, Ian  
*The Rule of Four*

*Trying to decipher an ancient text that weaves a mathematical labyrinth within a love story, two researchers obtain a diary that may contain the key to the code, but when a fellow researcher is killed, they realize that the book contains a dangerous secret.*

Cobb, Thomas  
*Shavetail*

*Fleeing a shameful past, seventeen year old Ned joins the U.S. Army in 1871.*

Coelho, Paulo  
*The Alchemist (TB)*

*An Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago travels from Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of treasure.*

Dalton, John  
*Heaven Lake :a novel*

*A Christian relief worker in Taiwan, Vincent Saunders supplements his income by teaching English to a group of young girls and has an affair with one of them, a situation that forces him to leave in disgrace.*

Dickens, Charles  
*Great Expectations*

*An orphaned young man in Victorian England is given a great deal of money by an unknown benefactor to enable him to live as a gentleman, pursuing a good education and fulfilling great expectations.*

Dreiser, Theodor  
*An American Tragedy*

*The rise and fall of Clyde Griffiths, who sacrifices everything is his desperate quest for success.*

Ellis, Bret  
*Less Than Zero*

*Clay, a freshman at an Eastern college, returns home to Los Angeles for Christmas break, but feels totally disconnected and aimless there, and discovers a seamy world of drugs and prostitution.*

Fergus, Jim  
*The Wild Girl : the notebooks of Ned Giles, 1932 : a novel*

*Heading west to join the search for the kidnapped son of a wealthy Mexican landowner, Ned meets a troubled Apache girl, imprisoned in a Mexican jail, whose fate forces him to make a choice that will change his life.*

Grey, Zane  
*Open Range : a western story*

*The story of a youth growing quickly to manhood, and achieving his ambition of becoming a top ranch hand.*

Groom, Winston  
*Forrest Gump*

*In the 1960s, Forrest Gump, a pleasant and obedient son with low intelligence, joins the army, returns from Vietnam famous for his heroics and makes millions on a Louisiana shrimp boat while steadfastly loving a girl from his childhood.*

Irving, John  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany : a novel*

*Owen Meany hits a foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother, an accident that Owen is sure is the result of divine intervention.*

Joyce, James  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  
*Follows Stephen Dedalus from his days as a student at the Clongowes Wood School, to the deep religious conflict he experiences at a day school in Dublin, to his college years during which he challenges the conventions of his upbringing.*

Just, Ward  
*An Unfinished Season*  
*Class struggle and family tensions explode in this novel of life in a Chicago suburb in the 1950s as a teenager watches his father's psyche crumble in the wake of union problems and marital difficulties.*

Kinsella, W.P.  
*Magic Time*  
*The story of a very talented baseball player whose aspiration is to play for the big leagues, but always gets nervous and chokes up when he is put on the spot.*

Kunkel, Benjamin  
*Indecision : a novel*  
*Dwight B. Wilmerding is only twenty-eight, but he's having a midlife crisis. Of course, living a dissolute, dorm like existence in a tiny apartment and working in tech support at the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer are not especially conducive to wisdom. And a few sessions of psychoanalysis conducted by his sister have distinctly failed to help with his biggest problem: a chronic inability to make up his mind.*

Lahiri, Jhumpa  
*The Namesake*  
*A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s and their difficult melding into an American way of life.*