

IMPACTFUL BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY GILLMAN

1. *A Single Shard*—by Linda Sue Park—a subtle and beautiful and utterly moving story set in 12th century Korea—about an orphan boy who is rescued by a homeless man living under a bridge—and then through his own fortunate curiosity is taken in by a cranky master potter—who we find lost his own son at a young age. Explores the wonderful theme of two wounded spirits providing each the needed salve.
2. *Stuck on Earth* by David Klass—encourages you to see with 'fresh eyes' the beauty of the world we normally take for granted—also will stoke your fires as how we are treating the planet—also a cool 'love' story.
3. *Out of My Mind*---by Sharon Draper—an astonishing look at a 'special needs' kid confined to a wheelchair, unable to talk—and labeled as 'retarded,' but has a whole world of understanding bubbling through her mind, across her visceral landscape. This book will not only open your own mind to astonishing breadths, but it also blast open your heart to new concepts of feeling and comprehension on what it can mean to be more fully alive.
4. *Gym Candy*—by Carl Deuker—a powerful story about the temptations to take performancing enhancing steroids as a high school athlete—and what can happen if you make that kind of Faustian bargain.
5. *Running Loose*—Chris Crutcher—another sports novel from the master—this examines race and a win-at-all-cost mentality that runs rampant in sports—and how you fight the power with integrity and persistence against adult authority..
5. *Touching Spirit Bear*---Ben Mikaelson—a kid is sent to a remote Alaskan island to pay penance for a violent crime against another student—and ends up having to confront his own anger amid this 'wild' environment. This is a story of healing and how to heal—and how to have courage to face your most intimate fears.
6. *Feed* by M.T. Anderson—a brilliant examination of how we are influenced by technology—and how the news feeds influence what we think and take the magical "I" from our inner essence of self. This book really shook me to the core.
7. *I'll Be There*—Holly Goldberg Sloane---what a beautiful story about two misfits who end up saving each other's lives—and the book is written in a very poetic and stylistic way—you can learn a lot about the value of the tiny detail and mini-character sketches—and then how to move mountains with your pen.
8. *Book Thief*—by Markus Zusak—another book famous for its writing style—and its point of view—some amazing sentences and a unique way of telling about what happened in Germany during the Holocaust—ostensibly based on the childhood of the author's mother.

9. *War Between the Classes*—Gloria Miklowitz—love how this describes a high school social studies class doing a simulation about social classes—and it shows how we judge and how those judgements impact how we treat each other in small ways and bigger ways.

10. *Faultline*—by Janet Tashjian—feel like every girl should read this before she graduates from high school—edgy and intense—will teach you how to advocate for yourself in a relationship—and to pay attention to telltale wrongs.