

## My Top 10 Library Reads of 2010

It's that time of year again, a time to reflect on the past year and to think about a few of our favorite things. For many in the media, this is the time for big splashy retrospectives and various top 10 lists. We have top 10 songs, top 10 newsmakers, and *Time* magazines' Person of the Year.

For me, 2010 was filled with shepherding my young sons through the usual homework hassles, allergies, growing pains and summer band. I also managed to read more than a few good books and tell a few good stories in story time, so I couldn't resist the urge to make my own list of the 10 best books of the year.

Here's my mixed up, unqualified look at the best reads of 2010. They aren't in any specific order because frankly, that's just too hard. It's a mix of adult books, teen books, and kid's books, so hopefully everyone can find something new they might have missed this year. Of course, if you are tired of reading everyone else's top lists of 2010 and just want to come to the library and find your own favorites, that's great! It's never too early to start your own top ten lists of 2011.

### Adult Fiction

**Room** by Emma Donoghue – This is a book that begs to be read in one sitting. It tells the story of Jack who, along with his mother, has spent his entire life being held captive in Room. The author's ability to capture the authentic voice of a five year old child makes this a riveting, poignant and often terrifying read.

**Bloodroot** by Amy Greene – A book rich in atmosphere and language, Bloodroot is set in the mountains of Appalachia. The author's amazing portrait of the region and her memorable characters make this a book you won't soon forget.

**The Thieves of Manhattan** by Adam Langer - It's a book about books! But wait! It's also a caper! A thriller! This is a great book filled with quirky characters that takes on the publishing industry and the public's taste in literature. A fun, quick read that's masterfully done.

### Teen Fiction

**Revolver** by Marcus Sedgewick - This author offers up a chilling tale of psychological suspense that left me breathless. His descriptions of the Arctic Circle, the cold that forms ice crystals in your lungs, and the hard life of his characters as they struggle to make it on this frozen frontier fully transported me there. This is a very haunting tale told by an expert.

**Black Hole Sun** by David Macinnis Gill - Black Hole Sun is classic shoot-em-up sci-fi at its best! You get an evil queen, cannibalistic bad guys, oppressed masses, corrupt politicians, and a crew of misfits and left behinds to ride in and save the day. Plunk all that down on the planet Mars mix it up with some very interesting science and you have a great story that will keep you turning the pages long into the night.

**Ship Breaker** by Paolo Bacigalupi -Wow! This book is a prime example of excellent storytelling. It's a rip roaring adventure full of greed, murder, pirates, storms, and ship battles. A perfect choice for teens and adults age 14 and up!

#### Kid's Books

**Piggy Pie Po!** By Audrey & Don Wood – Just saying the name of this book out loud makes me smile! What's not to love about a pig who likes to dance in his party pants? This is a perfect choice for toddlers and preschoolers.

**Little Black Crow** by Chris Raschka - A picture book that fosters the imagination and captures the innocence of childhood . A perfect choice to curl up with for a bedtime read.

**Imaginalis** by J M DeMattis - The writing is seamless, the pacing is fast, and the characters are sure to engage any young fantasy lover in grades 5 to 8. This promotes such a feeling of goodwill that I smiled for days after I read it.

**The Last Newspaper Boy in America** by Sue Corbett - Okay, so this is my actual favorite kid's book of 2010. It's a great American story that will be perfect for family read alouds. A solid recommend for tweenagers and their parents!

See you at the library!

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