

**COURSE TITLE:** Contemporary Literature (**grade 12**)

**OPTIONAL TEXT:** *The Lovely Bones*

**AUTHOR:** Alice Sebold

**GENRE:** Contemporary Fiction

**SUMMARY:** On her way home from school on a snowy December day in 1973, 14-year-old Susie Salmon is lured into a makeshift underground den in a cornfield, sexually assaulted, and murdered. She is the latest victim of a serial killer--the man she knew as her neighbor, Mr. Harvey. This heartbreaking novel unfolds from heaven, where "life is a perpetual yesterday" and where Susie narrates and keeps watch over her grieving family and friends, as well as her brazen killer and the sad detective working on her case. As Sebold explains it, everyone has his or her own version of heaven. Susie's resembles the athletic fields and landscape of a suburban high school. Susie's family disintegrates in their grief: her father becomes determined to find her killer, her mother withdraws, her little brother Buckley attempts to make sense of the new hole in his family, and her younger sister Lindsey moves through the milestone events of her teenage and young adult years with Susie riding in a spiritual passenger seat. This novel is a moving exploration of loss and mourning that ultimately puts its faith in the living and that is made even more powerful by a cast of convincing characters. (Amazon.com)

**REQUIRED STUDENT ASSIGNMENT (DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL):**

Select a work of art or photography that complements the text's point(s) of view, characters, themes, and/or symbols. Consult sources of your own choice, or utilize Mark Harden's Artchive at [www.artchive.com](http://www.artchive.com) to locate material. Bring a copy of your artwork to class on the first day of school, along with a typed t-chart delineating six to ten connections between the artwork and the text to present and discuss during literature circle sessions.