

## GUIDELINES

The Summer Reading Committee is happy to present this list. It comes in two parts: one for students entering grades seven and eight and a second for students entering grades nine through twelve. You will find books organized by category. The committee has responded to suggestions, adding and retaining those books that students particularly requested. There is considerable variety to appeal to various literary tastes and moods. Classics can be identified by the asterisk that marks each one.

Your years at Hopkins and the college years that follow are your best years for reading; for becoming a good reader; for becoming a habitual reader; for reading both to enjoy and to learn from books. The Hopkins Summer Reading List is designed to stimulate as well as to structure wide reading and should start, not finish, the quest for pleasurable reading. Each grade has been assigned *one required book*. Since the required book will be discussed during opening English classes in September, it should be read toward the end of the summer. As usual, students will be expected to write on four books (the one required book plus three others) when they return in the fall.

Since only one title is listed for each author on the annotated list, students must seek further information about authors they like. First, they may consult the Appendix to this guide, which lists additional books by the most popular and the classic authors. Most bookstores and libraries have copies of *Books in Print*, a directory of authors and titles. Librarians and booksellers are also excellent sources of information, as are parents, teachers, and friends.

- The list represents *authors* and offers short descriptions of specific works to entice students. Students may receive credit for reading *any book* by an author on the appropriate list, except in the case of the required books printed in the front of the list.
- Students entering grades 7-8 may read authors from the list for students entering grades 7-8 *and* the list for students entering grades 9-12. Students entering grades 9-12 may only receive credit for authors on the latter list.
- Students must read the required books for their grades and *three* other previously unread books from the appropriate lists. Required reading for other classes does not count toward these three titles.
- Students taking history courses at Hopkins Summer School are not required to do the summer reading normally required for those courses.
- The Summer Reading List is a *reading* list; students will not receive credit for watching plays, listening to audiobooks, etc.

For advanced language students, a challenge would be to read one book in the original language.

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**"Books may well be the only true magic."**

*Alice Hoffman*

**A real book is not one that we read, but one that reads us.**

*W. H. Auden*

## REQUIRED BOOKS BY GRADE

7 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Twain	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>
8 <sup>th</sup>	Harper Lee	<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>
9 <sup>th</sup>	J.D. Salinger	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>
10 <sup>th</sup>	Khaled Hosseini	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Frederick Douglass	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass An American Slave</i> (Barnes and Noble publishers, 126 pp. with introduction by Robert O'Meally)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Smiley	<i>A Thousand Acres</i>

## REQUIRED READING FOR CLASSICS

Latin III:	Robert Harris	<i>Imperium</i>
AP Latin Vergil:	Virgil	<i>The Aeneid</i> , trans. David West (2003) Penguin Classics

## REQUIRED READING FOR HISTORY COURSES

If the history course you signed up for next year is on this list, read the required book(s). *Reading for history courses is additional to the four books required for summer reading.*

### **Atlantic Communities II (Grade 10):**

Voltaire

### **Required:**

*Candide*

### **Atlantic Communities III (Grade 11):**

Erich Maria Remarque

### **Required:**

*All Quiet on the Western Front*

### **Holocaust:**

Elie Wiesel

### **Required:**

*Night*

### **Philosophy (1<sup>st</sup> semester):**

Earl Conee and Theodore Sider

### **Required:**

*Riddles of Existence*

It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it.  
**Oscar Wilde**

# LIST FOR GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

## GENERAL FICTION

**Aesop*****Fables\****

A charming array of age-old fables, which feature talking animals and clever conclusions. Originally told some 2500 years ago by a humble slave who won his freedom by entertaining the court with memorable and amusing characters.

**Alcott, Louisa May*****Little Women\****

Sometimes humorous, often romantic, at times sad, this is the story of the March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, growing up in Concord, Massachusetts, during the 19th century.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse*****Speak***

As her sardonic humor casts light on everything we love to hate about high school, the horrific story behind a girl's ostracism unfolds.

**Auster, Paul*****Timbuktu***

Mr. Bones, the devoted canine sidekick to poet Willy G. Christmas, barks up a memorable story of genuine friendship and love. From the refreshing perspective of man's best friend, *Timbuktu* is sure to touch and delight all readers.

**Baldwin, James*****Go Tell It on the Mountain***

The story of three generations of black people, culminating in the religious conversion and acceptance of his fate as a black on the part of a fourteen-year-old Harlem boy.

**Barrie, James M.*****Peter Pan***

From the safety of Nana the collie's care, Peter Pan and Wendy fly to Neverland and fall into the clutches of Captain Hook, evil pirate of the missing hand. Best supporting player: the ticking crocodile.

**Bauer, Joan*****Hope was Here***

When sixteen-year-old Hope moves from Brooklyn to the small town of Mulhoney, Wisconsin with her aunt, she discovers politics, love, and hope through waitressing.

**Buck, Pearl*****The Good Earth***

A Chinese peasant encounters times of great misfortune and great prosperity in this deeply moving book which gives a wonderful insight into Chinese life and culture.

**Burns, Olive Ann*****Cold Sassy Tree***

Will Tweedy, a boy living at the turn of the century in a small Georgia town, idolizes his Grandpa Rucker. When just three weeks after his wife's death, Grandpa Rucker marries his store's young Yankee milliner, Will must watch and learn from the community's and his family's reactions.

**Carroll, Lewis*****Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass\****

Two delightful tales about Alice's adventures in the mad, magical worlds, down the rabbit hole and through the looking glass, where words don't mean what they say and things aren't what they seem.

**Cisneros, Sandra*****The House on Mango Street***

This poignant album of memories follows a Mexican-American girl who, in the midst of poverty, struggles for education and self-esteem in the Hispanic section of Chicago.

**Coehlo, Paulo*****The Alchemist***

A young shepherd goes on a journey to find valuable treasure, encountering thieves, con men, kings, beautiful women, and the wise and mysterious alchemist.

**Dickens, Charles**

***David Copperfield\****

The story of David Copperfield's growth from innocent, naive, and easily exploited child to prudent, commanding, and loving adult.

**Durrell, Gerald Malcolm**

***My Family and Other Animals***

After his British family moves to the Greek Island Corfu, ten-year old Gerry amuses himself with adventures among the natural wildlife, his sister's struggle with acne, and his parents attempt to lead normal British lives among the natives.

**Grahame, Kenneth**

***The Wind in the Willows\****

Timid Mole shies from the ordinary when he goes boating with the Water Rat instead of finishing his spring-cleaning. The two find themselves in more than a little mischief.

**Greenberg, JoAnne**

***I Never Promised You a Rose Garden***

A sixteen-year-old girl's recovery from madness and her readjustment to normal life.

**Guest, Judith**

***Ordinary People***

Assisted by a psychiatrist, a family attempts to cope with young Conrad's mental illness and the family's disintegrating relationships.

**Hautzig, Esther**

***The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia***

Ten-year-old Esther Rudomin and her Jewish family are arrested by the Russians in 1941 and exiled to Siberia.

**Hersey, John**

***A Bell for Adano***

An American helps Italian villagers to rebuild their town and their spirits after World War II.

**Huxley, Aldous**

***Brave New World***

The seminal imaginings of a dystopian world seven centuries After Ford.

**Juster, Norton**

***The Phantom Tollbooth***

Milo, restless and discontented, travels to the Lands Beyond with the aid of a mysterious tollbooth.

**Kincaid, Jamaica**

***Annie John***

The story of a charming, sensitive, and talented young girl is rendered in prose as lushly beautiful as the Caribbean setting in which she grows up.

**Kirkwood, James**

***Good Times, Bad Times***

A book of memoirs written in jail by Peter who was tried and convicted for the murder of his school principal who accused Peter and Jordan - good friends until Jordan's death - of homosexuality.

**Leffman, Ella**

***Rumors Of Peace***

A bright, pretty girl questions the validity of war, school, and her prejudices during World War II.

**London, Jack**

***Call of the Wild***

Set in Alaska of the late 1800's, this novel chronicles the adventures of Buck, a powerful tide-water dog, and his abusive owners. Man and brute rage contend in harsh surroundings.

**McCullers, Carson**

***A Member of the Wedding***

A sensitive portrayal of adolescent Frankie Adams who is bored by her little cousin, rejected by the "in-crowd," neglected by her father, and yearns to belong to her newlywed brother and his wife.

**Montgomery, Lucy**

***Anne Of Green Gables***

A story of an imaginative orphan and her life on a farm with an old-fashioned woman and her brother.

**Orwell, George**

***1984\****

Winston and Julia try to break away from the dystopian society in which Big Brother watches over all. The population behaves like mindless robots, always agreeing with the government.

**Peck, Robert N.**

***A Day No Pigs Would Die***

Raised in the Shaker tradition on a Vermont farm, thirteen-year-old Rob learns from his father how to take on the duties of a man.

**Red Shirt, Delphine**

***Bead on an Anthill***

Delphine Red Shirt, a Lakota woman and former Hopkins' parent, grew up on the plains of Nebraska and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Her memoir describes both her traditional childhood and the cultural history of her tribe, the Oglala Sioux.

**Saroyan, William**

***The Human Comedy***

The narrator, a messenger for the Postal Telegraph, creates a view of family life in the 1940's in a small California town.

**Seredy, Kate**

***The Good Master***

A lonely Hungarian farm-boy races through an unforgettable summer with his firebrand of a cousin from Budapest.

**Smith, Betty**

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***

A heart-warming story of the struggles and adjustments of a poor Irish-American family, told by a particularly loving and astute daughter, Francie Nolan.

**Smith, Dodie**

***I Capture the Castle***

A teenage girl who lives in a castle finds refuge from her peculiar life by writing faithfully in her diary. Reminiscent of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Streatfield, Noel**

***Thursday's Child***

In turn-of-the-century England, Margaret Thursday absconds from an orphanage with two other children, works as a "legger" on the canals, and starts a career as an actress.

**Swarthout, Glendon**

***Bless the Beasts and Children***

Six misfit campers, troubled by their wealthy, uncaring families, sneak out of cowboy camp to free another group of captives: a herd of buffalo awaiting annihilation in Arizona's annual buffalo hunt.

**Thurber, James**

***Fables for Our Time***

Following Aesop, Thurber rounds off his stories of funny-looking dogs and seals with such instructive morals as: "Those equipped with flippers should not monkey around with zippers!"

**Voight, Cynthia**

***Jackaroo***

The innkeeper's daughter, Gwyn, at first does not believe the tales of Jackaroo, the mysterious man who aids the poor. However, he is to help her in the most intriguing and unexpected way.

**West, Jessamyn**

***Cress Delahanty***

A young girl's growing up between the ages of twelve and sixteen on a ranch in southern California.

**White, E.B.**

***Charlotte's Web\****

The world's most wonderful spider saves the world's sweetest pig in this most charming of all E.B. White stories.

**Wilder, Thornton**

***The Bridge of San Luis Rey***

When a collapsing bridge tosses five travelers to their death in the chasm below, Brother Juniper is impelled to find the answer to the question, "Why those five?"

## HISTORICAL FICTION

**Crane, Stephen**

***The Red Badge of Courage\****

The strain of war is uppermost in this psychological story of a sensitive boy who slowly moves from timidity to great courage through the course of the American Civil War.

**Crichton, Michael**

***The Great Train Robbery***

A daring mid-nineteenth-century train robbery shocks all of England. Join the mastermind of this crime as he executes the robbery with stunning virtuosity.

**Elliot, Laura**

***Under a War-Torn Sky***

When Hank, a fifteen year-old American pilot, is shot down behind enemy lines in France, he seeks the help of the French Resistance. This diverse group of people, trying to save the life of a foreigner and stranger, shows great strength and courage and displays the true sentiments of the World War II resistance movements.

**Forbes, Esther**

***Johnny Tremain***

A story of a young man growing up during the time of the American Revolution, from the Boston Tea Party to the Battle of Lexington.

**Harris, Robert**

***Imperium***

A lively account of the life of Cicero, one of Rome's greatest politicians, as recorded by his slave Tiro. As always, Harris's writing is fresh, witty, and engaging.

**Speare, Elizabeth**

***Calico Captive***

A young English girl is captured by raiding Indians during the French and Indian war and struggles to find her own identity in the face of clashing cultures and religions.

**Trease, Geoffrey**

***Cue for Treason***

When Peter Brownrigg accidentally joins a traveling acting troupe headed by William Shakespeare, he is plunged into a world of mystery and suspense as he attempts to discover the truth about a plot to kill the Queen of England.

**Wouk, Herman**

***The Caine Mutiny***

Conflict aboard the destroyer-minesweeper Caine during World War II reaches its climax during a typhoon as Captain Queeg apparently goes mad.

**Yolen, Jane**

***The Devil's Arithmetic***

While celebrating a Passover Seder in 1988, twelve year-old Hannah finds herself transported to Poland in 1942. A haunting story of the Holocaust, this book forces the reader to live the atrocities of the genocide and imagine the strength of the survivors.

## NONFICTION

**Bitton-Jackson, Livia**

***I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust***

13-year-old Elli Friedmann's memoir about her struggle for survival in Nazi-occupied Hungary, which recounts her efforts to protect her mother and brother while also coping with adolescence.

**Burch, Jennings Michael**

***They Cage the Animals at Night***

The moving, autobiographical tale of a boy shuttled from one foster home to another in a world where hatred, rejection, and abandonment rule, where cruel nuns really do cage the animals at night.

**Collier, Peter & David Horowitz**

***The Kennedys: An American Drama***

America's beloved family and the tragedies they were forced to endure. Movingly written, this biographical work begins with Joseph Kennedy and concludes with the lives of his grandchildren.

**Herriot, James**

***All Creatures Great and Small***

The enchanting memoir of a Scottish veterinarian and his work in the Yorkshire countryside, where his encounters with humans are just as fascinating as his encounters with animals.

**Hickam, Homer**

***October Sky***

A memoir that tells the story of an unlikely group of boys who set out to prove that the sky really is the limit. Originally published as *Rocket Boys*.

**Hoff, Benjamin**

***The Tao of Pooh***

Eastern philosophy presents a new way to look at an old favorite. (Winnie, Piglet, Eeyore and company abound.)

**Lord, Walter**

***A Night to Remember***

A fabulous historical account of the glamorous *Titanic*, doomed to sink during her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. (There's a sequel: *The Night Lives On*.)

**Maxwell, Gavin**

***A Ring of Bright Water***

This delightful and enlightening book discovers the wild animals that roam the coast of Scotland, centering on the otters who live there.

## PLAYS/POETRY

**Eliot, T.S.**

***Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats***

Light verse about a variety of felines, from the 20th century's greatest poet. This is the book upon which *Cats* the musical was based.

**Gibson, William**

***The Miracle Worker***

An inspiring story of the young teacher Annie Sullivan, who brought the power of language to the deaf and mute child, Helen Keller.

**Kaufman, George & Moss Hart**

***You Can't Take It with You***

Blissfully untainted by work, competition, or greed, a wonderful, wacky family proves that life is to be measured by enthusiastic endeavor rather than productivity.

**Nash, Ogden**

***Candy is Dandy: The Best of Ogden Nash***

One of America's funniest poets: his nonsensical rhymes and puns make him enjoyable and interesting. A light, entertaining read.

## ADVENTURE

**DeFoe, Daniel**

***Robinson Crusoe\****

A strange and enlightening tale of a shipwrecked Englishman who lives alone for twenty-eight years on a desert island where he re-creates civilization.

**Defoe, Gideon**

***The Pirates! In Adventures With Scientists***

What would have happened if Charles Darwin's scientific voyage to the Galapagos Islands had been intercepted by a swashbuckling band of pirates? Read this imaginative tale.

**Dumas, Alexandre**

***The Count of Monte Cristo***

After being falsely accused and imprisoned for life, Dantes gets revenge in the old-fashioned, swashbuckling way, picking off his enemies after he miraculously escapes imprisonment.

**Stevenson, Robert L.**

***Treasure Island\****

A classic pirate tale with gore and rum and treasure enough for everyone. Come aboard!

**Swift, Jonathan**

***Gulliver's Travels* \***

The adventuring Gulliver is shipwrecked and captured by strange peoples: from tiny Lilliputians to gigantic Brobdingnagians; from mad scientists to snooty horses.

**Tolkein, J.R.R.**

***The Hobbit***

Bilbo Baggins, a charming but unlikely candidate for heroic adventures, finds himself on a journey of magic and excitement, swept up in a battle against evil powers in Middle Earth.

**Traven, B.**

***Treasure of the Sierra Madre***

Three misfits search for gold in the wilds of Mexico and discover the horrors of their own greed.

## **MYSTERY**

**Christie, Agatha**

***Ten Little Indians***

Tensions mount as ten guests, undetected culprits of past murders, are gradually polished off while guests of a mysterious host on Devil's Island.

**Collins, Wilkie**

***The Moonstone***

Called England's original mystery novel, it recounts the disappearance of a rare Indian diamond in the Yorkshire countryside. Everyone is a suspect, and all are trying to find out "whodunit".

**Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan**

***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes***

These stories feature the master plotting of England's prize mystery solver and his faithful sidekick, Watson.

**Hammet, Dashiell**

***The Thin Man***

Nick Charles, one of fiction's funniest detectives, makes his debut in this novel. (He is not, by the way, the thin man.)

**Stevenson, Robert L.**

***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***

Dr. Henry Jekyll, a respected London physician, has stipulated in his will that all his estate should, on his death, go entirely to Edward Hyde, a loathsome murderer. Thus begins this bizarre and chilling adventure which reveals that these two men are actually the same person!

## **SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY**

**Adams, Douglas**

***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***

These are the very funny voyages of Arthur Dent as he travels in search of Zaphod Beeblebrox, ex-head honcho of the universe, the only person, it seems, who can save it from destruction.

**Adams, Richard**

***Watership Down***

A magical and suspenseful tale of adventure, heroism, and friendship. A group of rabbits abandon their dying community and set off to establish a new life.

**Alexander, Lloyd**

***The Book of Three***

Taran, the Assistant Pig Keeper; Princess Eilonwy, the 370-year-old Dalben; and Lord Gwydion battle the dreaded Lord of Annuvin and his host of undead.

**Anthony, Piers**

***On a Pale Horse***

Zane, the new Incarnation of Death, must battle Satan in order to save the woman he loves.

**Barron, T.A.**

***The Lost Years of Merlin***

A new look at a side of Merlin rarely ever seen, T.A. Barron writes the story of his childhood.

**Bradbury, Ray**

***The Martian Chronicles***

This loose collection of quirky stories discussing the human discovery of Martian civilization provides complex and satiric social criticism in the form of science fiction.

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer**

***The Mists of Avalon***

The legend of King Arthur told through the words and eyes of the women who were central to it.

**Bray, Libba**

***A Great and Terrible Beauty***

When her mother dies mysteriously, Gemma Doyle is forced to move to England to attend boarding school. While there, she discovers a portal into a secret world and the covert society of sorceresses that control it.

**Card, Orson Scott**

***Ender's Game***

A fast-moving and exciting work from one of the fastest-growing names in science fiction, about a boy in training to lead Earth in an electronic war against an alien threat. Truly addictive reading.

**Cooper, Susan**

***The Dark is Rising***

Will Stanton lives a normal life, until he discovers that he is the Sign-Seeker. Last hope of the Old Ones, he is destined to guard the Signs of Light and battle the evil forces of the Dark.

**Divakaruni, Chitra B.**

***The Conch Bearer***

This is the story of two children who are entrusted with a magic conch shell and must embark on a mystical and dangerous journey to a distant valley to deliver the conch to its rightful shrine. This book is similar to J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, but it puts a different twist on a whole new adventure.

**Jacques, Brian**

***Redwall***

The fantastical mouse adventures of Matthias as he overcomes his bumbling and becomes a warrior, defending Redwall Abbey and Mossflower Woods against the villainous rat Cluny the Scourge.

**Jones, Diana Wynne**

***Howl's Moving Castle***

Sophie, a girl turned into an old lady by a jealous witch, must leave her home behind in the search for a cure. Eventually Sophie enters the moving castle of the Wizard Howl, where she finds a way to break her curse, if she can just help Howl first.

**LeGuin, Ursula K.**

***A Wizard of Earthsea***

A boy's rise from a fishing village on a remote island to the Wizards' School of Roke and his concurrent flight from an evil shadow he has accidentally loosed upon the world.

**L'Engle, Madeleine**

***A Wrinkle in Time\****

A brother and sister, together with a friend, go in search of their father, who was lost in a government experiment involving travel through different times and dimensions.

**Lewis, C.S.**

***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe***

In the introductory volume of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, four children find a magical doorway into the land of Narnia, where the evil White Witch is overpowered by the noble lion, Aslan.

**Moers, Walter**

***The 13½ Lives of Captain Bluebear***

Bluebear explores the world of Zamonnia, encountering all sorts of extraordinary creatures, from the Minipirates to giant Bollogs. This witty epic will keep you giggling throughout.

**Paolini, Christopher**

***Eragon***

A poor farm boy finds a stone (or is it an egg?) that will change his life forever. This is an exhilarating fantasy about dragons and their riders who must journey together through a dangerous world dominated by an evil king with hidden enemies at every corner.

**Pratchett, Terry and Neil Gaimen**

***Good Omens***

This finely-tuned parody loosely based on the Book of Revelation follows the eleven-year-old Antichrist and a cast of various other worldly and otherworldly beings through the last days of humankind.

**Pullman, Phillip**

***The Golden Compass***

In the first installment of his controversial, Milton-inspired trilogy, Philip Pullman weaves a thrilling and intricate tale while examining the true nature of religion and fate.

**Rowling, J.K.**

***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows***

You may read any Harry Potter book if you haven't already!

**Wrede, Patricia C.**

***Dealing with Dragons***

Cimorene, princess of Linderwall, hates doing what she is supposed to do, so she runs away to live with a dragon, to learn spells, and to do other improper things - so much cooler than marriage to a prince.

## **LIST FOR GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE**

### **GENERAL FICTION**

***One Thousand and One Arabian Nights***

Thousands of years' worth of Mesopotamian Mythology and Arabic folk stories, collected into one of the most influential storybooks of all time. Open sesame!

***The Mabinogion***

Eleven Welsh stories that were transmitted orally for centuries before being written down in the thirteenth century comprise an enchanting mixture of magic, myth, fantasy, and history.

***The Song of Roland\****

A medieval epic full of jealousy, betrayal, blood and gore as well as fierce fighting, loyalty, and sweet revenge.

**Abbey, Edward**

***The Monkey Wrench Gang***

The humorous story of four eccentric and radical characters that struggle to fight commercial expansion in Utah during the 1970's and its effects on the environment.

**Aksyonov, Vassily**

***Generations of Winter***

Stalinist Russia is the setting for this beautiful novel that weaves together the stories of three generations of the Gradov family. Aksyonov illuminates the ways in which the shift to communism affected the character of individuals and shaped a family's history.

**Alderman, Naomi**

***Disobedience***

A young woman who has broken away from her Orthodox Jewish community in London returns when her father dies. She has created a new life for herself in New York, and now she must resolve a number of old issues. With her ear for dialogue and eye for detail Alderman creates a gripping and insightful story.

**Allende, Isabel**

***The House of the Spirits***

A cousin of assassinated Chilean president Salvadore Allende, Allende tells the mystical story of three generations of the Trueba family and its interplay with its tumultuous country.

**Alvarez, Julia**

***In the Time of Butterflies***

The exciting and tragic tale of four sisters, the Butterflies, who help lead the revolution against El Jefe, dictator of the Dominican Republic.

**Aman, Tahmina**

***A Golden Age***

Aman's stunning debut novel interweaves the life of one family with the events of the Bangladeshi War of Independence in 1971. Searing drama and beautiful, fluid language.

**Amis, Martin*****The Rachel Papers***

Amis's first novel tells the often hilarious, often heartbreaking story of a mediocre teenager pining after his first love. A masterpiece of wordplay.

**Anderson, Sherwood*****Winesburg, Ohio***

A series of interconnected short stories about the people living in the small town of Winesburg, Ohio.

**Atwood, Margaret*****The Penelopiad***

Penelope, Odysseus' loyal wife, gives her account of the twenty years Odysseus was absent. The hundred and twenty suitors vying for her hand and the twelve maids Odysseus hangs on his return are integral parts of the story.

**Austen, Jane*****Sense and Sensibility***

Austen explores 19th century English culture through her brilliantly crafted protagonists, the Dashwood sisters, as they mature in their new, unfortunate circumstances having been forced to move from their luxurious home to a country cottage.

**Auster, Paul*****The Music of Chance***

A man's journey across the country and through his "inner self." (Read also *The New York Trilogy*.)

**Barnes, Julian*****Arthur & George***

Barnes's latest bestseller is a fictionalized account of the relationship between Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of the Sherlock Holmes series, and George Edjali, a middle-aged man accused of committing horrific crimes in the English countryside.

**Barrett, Andrea*****Ship Fever***

This collection of short stories does an impressive job of merging the concrete, quantifiable world of science with the murkier realm of human emotion. Each story examines a different period in scientific history through the sensitive portrayal of individual characters.

**Bellow, Saul*****Herzog***

The inner life of a Jewish intellectual, Moses Herzog, driven to the verge of breakdown by his second wife's adultery with his close friend.

**Bohjalian, Chris*****Midwives***

A midwife is charged for murder when one of her patients dies while giving birth.

**Borges, Jorge L.*****Labyrinths***

A collection of short stories featuring real and fictitious criminals.

**Brontë, Anne*****Agnes Grey***

In this semi-autobiographical novel, the author rails against the plight of unmarried, educated women forced to become governesses. An insightful depiction of the chauvinism and materialism of the time, which these women were forced to endure.

**Brontë, Charlotte*****Jane Eyre\****

One of the greatest in the *bildungsroman* genre, this story carries Jane from the grip of cruel relatives and teachers to perfect love at last in the arms of the enigmatic Rochester.

**Brontë, Emily*****Wuthering Heights\****

Wuthering Heights is set in the Yorkshire moors and features the passionate Catherine Earnshaw and the stormy Heathcliff as main characters. The story concerns their turbulent and thwarted love.

**Bulgakov, Mikhail*****Master and Marguerita\****

A Faustian tale of the devil's appearance in 1930s Moscow and his relationship with a writer and his beloved.

**Burgess, Anthony*****A Clockwork Orange***

Told in argot by a city-dwelling juvenile delinquent. After several rapes, muggings, and a murder, he is apprehended and forced into a scientific experiment for rehabilitation.

**Butler, Samuel*****The Way of All Flesh\****

A semi-autobiographical look at the English middle class, the Pontifex family and their miserable child-parent relationships over the course of several generations.

**Byatt, A.S.*****Possession***

A modern masterpiece about two literary professors who scour the English countryside to prove a secret affair between two 19<sup>th</sup> century poets.

**Calvino, Italo*****Mr. Palomar***

Concise, stark, and surrealistic writing about intriguing people.

**Camus, Albert (trans. Matthew Ward)*****The Stranger\****

Meursault, the prototype of the anti-hero, comes to grips with his alienation in this beautifully written novel. (Students who have completed French III can read it in the original.)

**Capote, Truman*****Music for Chameleons***

Bright, chilling, and enticing stories from a boldly, beautifully weird writer.

**Carver, Raymond*****What We Talk About When We Talk About Love***

Carver's plain, bare-bones prose style is epitomized in this collection of short stories about love and all its baggage. While the characters are devastatingly ordinary and their interactions seemingly trivial, each story is a deeply nuanced commentary on what it means to form connections with others.

**Casey, John*****Spartina***

This novel is a character study of a fisherman in Rhode Island and his struggle to raise enough money to build a boat.

**Castenada, Carlos*****The Fire from Within***

A brilliant and tantalizing burst of illumination into the depths of our mysteries, like a sudden flashing light, which shows us a world that is both alien and familiar - the landscape to our dreams. Carlos Castaneda recounts the teachings of Don Juan and the Yagni Indians.

**Cather, Willa*****Death Comes for the Archbishop***

In the early 1850's, missionary Father Latour begins his duties in New Mexico. The colorful history and culture of the Southwest contribute to the beautiful story of the bishop's troubles and successes.

**Céline, Louis-Ferdinand*****Journey to the End of the Night***

A darkly hilarious jaunt from the battlefields of the Great War, to French West Africa, to America, and then back to France, following the epic misadventures of the casually nihilistic antihero Bardamu.

**Cervantes, Miguel de*****Don Quixote \****

The wry, satirical story of a Spanish gentleman, deludedly convinced he is his own ideal romantic hero, who adventures about the world wooing a fair and noble serving girl and tilting at windmills.

**Chabon, Michael*****Wonder Boys***

During one atypical weekend in Pittsburgh, college professor and pot-addled novelist Grady Tripp contends with writer's block, a mid-life crisis, a frantic wife, a desperate editor, and a brilliant but disturbed star student.

**Chbosky, Stephen*****The Perks of Being a Wallflower***

This novel examines the life of a boy as he enters high school and that curious time known as growing up. Witty, honest, and unique, his letters detail his journeys in his searches for friendship, love, understanding, and his own place in the world.

**Clavell, James**

***Shōgun***

Following the trials and triumphs of the Japanese warlord Toranaga through the eyes of the stranded English privateer John Blackthorne, Clavell paints an intricate tapestry of a forgotten world in this triumphant study of the human thought and interaction.

**Conrad, Joseph**

***The Secret Agent***

Set in London, the novel is the story of an attack, and its consequences, on the Greenwich Observatory, masterminded by a Russian spy.

**Currie, Ron, Jr.**

***God is Dead***

God is accidentally killed while observing the Genocide in Darfur. Currie's loosely related dystopian stories paint a bleak portrait of a godless future.

**Danielewski, Mark**

***House of Leaves***

This brilliant novel, distinguished by its multiplicity of voices and narratives, breaks with convention at nearly every turn and, in doing so, pushes at modern literature's outer limits.

**Danticat, Edwige**

***The Dew Breaker***

A series of interlocking short stories by a young Haitian-American writer explores an immigrant family's present in America and past on the island.

**Demetz, Hana**

***The House on Prague Street***

The story of Helene Richer, a Czechoslovakian child who falls in love during World War II. Reminiscent of *The Diary of Anne Frank* in its compassion and poignancy.

**Desai, Kiran**

***Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard***

A warm and humorous tale that weaves fantasy into a story of family life in India. This is Booker Prize winner Desai's first novel.

**Dickens, Charles**

***Nicholas Nickleby\****

Dickens exposes, among other things, the evils of England's school system, the joys of a theatrical company, the villainous Ralph, the cherubic Cheeryble twins, and of course, the heroic Nicholas.

**Dickey, James**

***Deliverance***

Four men brave the destructive forces of a wild river with disastrous consequences. The adventure of their dreams forces them to act as morally as their new knowledge of crime will allow.

**Dostoyevski, Fyodor**

***Crime and Punishment\****

The most philosophical murder story ever written. A must for lovers of Russian novels, moral anguish, and gory crimes.

**Doxiadis, Apostolos**

***Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture***

A young boy, intrigued by his uncle's studies in mathematics, discovers his uncle's obsession with the mathematical hypothesis, Goldbach's Conjecture.

**Dreiser, Theodore**

***An American Tragedy\****

A portrait of America's corrupt value system and its effects on the ambitious and romantic Clyde Griffiths.

**DuMaurier, Daphne**

***Rebecca***

A young bride uncovers the secrets of her husband's first wife, Rebecca, and his mansion, Manderley. A thrilling tale of romance and suspense.

**Dunmore, Helen**

***Mourning Ruby***

The story of a young woman, abandoned at birth, who struggles to achieve a sense of family and connectedness as she matures.

**Eggers, Dave*****A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius***

An invitation into the world of Dave Eggers, where sock-sliding abounds, prose conventions hold no weight, and a 22 year old autobiographer must raise his seven year old brother.

**Eliot, George*****The Mill on the Floss\****

An extremely bright and gifted girl, Maggie Tulliver, struggles for love and against 19th-century conventions, prejudices, her foolish mother, and her narrow-minded brother.

**Ellison, Ralph*****Invisible Man\****

A vivid, often shocking look at the African-American experience through the eyes of a disillusioned young black man.

**Englander, Nathan*****The Ministry of Special Cases***

The long-awaited first novel from Englander tells the story of Kaddish, a Jew in junta-led Argentina whose son is one of the 'disappeared.' A moving, dramatic, Kafkaesque story with rich characters and a chilling ending.

**Erdrich, Louise*****The Master Butchers Singing Club***

An epic tale of a German immigrant's experience between the world wars in North Dakota that weaves together the life histories of a large cast of characters from diverse backgrounds.

**Faulkner, William*****As I Lay Dying***

The matriarch of a penniless family lies dying in her bed at home, prompting the homecoming of family from across the nation. This leads to fascinating conflicts, culminating in a long journey to bury her body in a town far away.

**Fitzgerald, F. Scott*****The Great Gatsby\****

A shimmering story of innocence and corruption, false glamour and cultural barrenness, featuring Gatsby, the faithful dreamer, and Daisy, the vacuous object of his love.

**Flaubert, Gustave*****Madame Bovary\****

One of the most beautifully written novels of all time, featuring an ardently romantic heroine in one of the greatest love stories of all time. (Advanced French students should read the novel in French.)

**Forster, E.M.*****A Passage to India\****

One of the very best portrayals of what happens when cultures clash. In this case, tensions and discoveries occur in British India in the 1920's.

**Frame, Janet*****Yellow Flowers in the Antipodean Room***

This novel is at once down-to-earth and transcendent. Its portrayal of human love is both mysterious and real suggesting that life and death cannot be separated.

**Frazier, Charles*****Cold Mountain***

The stunning tale of a wounded Civil War soldier who walks away from the battlefield to go home to his sweetheart.

**Fuentes, Carlos*****The Death of Artemio Cruz***

The deathbed recollections of wealthy landowner and newspaper publisher Artemio Cruz, who recalls his life as a revolutionary in the Mexican War.

**Gaarder, Jostein*****Sophie's World***

The history of philosophy from Aristotle to Freud told in the style of a detective novel.

**Gaiman, Neil*****American Gods***

Just released from prison and lost in society, Shadow is employed in a battle of Gods for the soul of America, a battle of the New and the Old.

**Gardner, John**

***Grendel***

The epic *Beowulf* is turned on its head in this version, narrated by the villainous monster of the original. Alternately hilarious and heartbreaking, this is a dizzyingly inventive look at a well-known story.

**Godden, Rumer**

***Black Narcissus***

Five nuns, engaged in missionary work high in the Himalayas, succumb to the sensuality and mystery of India.

**Grass, Günter**

***The Tin Drum***

The “autobiography” of Oskar Matzerath, a child gifted with the ability to shatter glass with a scream, who, after observing the adult world and all its ills, willfully arrests his physical development at age three.

**Green, Graham**

***The End of the Affair***

The love affair between Maurice Bendix and Sarah, flourishing in the turbulent times of the London Blitz, ends when she suddenly breaks it off. A chance meeting rekindles his love and jealously two years later, and Bendix hires a private detective to follow Sarah. Slowly his love for her turns into an obsession.

**Gruen, Sara**

***Water for Elephants***

Set during the Great Depression, *Water for Elephants* tells the story of a young man who leaves his life as a veterinary student and jumps onto a train that happens to belong to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth.

**Guterson, David**

***Snow Falling on Cedars***

Heavy snow falls and falls but cannot soften, purify, or bury thwarted love, historical prejudices, or the stormy melancholy of a tense courtroom drama.

**Haddon, Mark**

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time***

This book is the touching story of Christopher John Francis Boone, an autistic boy who has a unique perception of his world. When a neighbor’s dog is murdered in the middle of the night, it leads to an interesting, and at times hilarious, series of events which cause Christopher to embark on an adventure all his own.

**Hardy, Thomas**

***Return of the Native\****

A tale of love, betrayal, wasted ambition, and tragic lives set in the gloomy heath country of England, where the saturnine Eustacia Vye longs for the excitement of Paris.

**Harris, Joanne**

***Five Quarters of the Orange***

When Framboise Simon was nine years old, a tragedy occurred during the German occupation of her small village on the banks of the Loire River, and her mother was held responsible. Now, Framboise returns to this town in disguise, begins a new life for herself, and discovers the truth to the tragic mystery that haunts her past.

**Hawthorne, Nathaniel**

***House of Seven Gables***

A poetic novel surrounding the events that occur after Hephzibah Pyncheon opens a small store out of her family’s home.

**Hedges, Peter**

***What’s Eating Gilbert Grape?***

A modern classic about a young man anxious to escape the oppression of rural Iowa but unable to leave his family on their own. Quirky, funny, and desperately sad.

**Hegi, Ursula**

***Stones from the River***

In the shadow of World War II, the German dwarf Trudi sees the horrors of Hitler’s atrocities and faces truths about human nature.

**Heller, Joseph*****Catch 22***

A satirical novel of World War II set in the Mediterranean, concerning the improbable and illogical adventure of an American bomber squadron and the frantic reactions of Captain Yossarian.

**Helprin, Mark*****Soldier of the Great War***

An aged professor of aesthetics recounts his life to a young stranger over the course of a three day trek in Italy.

**Hemingway, Ernest*****For Whom the Bell Tolls***

A tale of danger, love and the quest for purpose set during the Spanish Civil War and told through the eyes of an American volunteer.

**Hesse, Hermann*****Demian***

The dramatization of the dilemma of the marked man - the outcast, quasi-criminal hero - who rejects society and strives to find a higher meaning in a strange world of his own making.

**Hilton, James*****Lost Horizon***

Circumstances bring Hugh Conway and three other English subjects to the breathtaking beauty of Shangri-La, an ideal world hidden in the mountains of Tibet.

**Homer*****The Iliad\****

Led by Achilles, all the great Greek warriors fall upon Troy in this timeless epic where gods and heroic mortals eke revenge with superb energy and style.

**Hugo, Victor*****The Hunchback of Notre Dame***

The original tale of Quasimodo, the hunchback of Notre Dame, and Esmeralda, the gypsy he is in love with.

**Hurston, Zora Neale*****Their Eyes Were Watching God***

A book that passionately fights against men who mistreat women. It is filled with pain, sorrow, hope, and accomplishment. A gripping narrative.

**Irving, John*****The Cider House Rules***

Orphan Homer Wells was born and raised at St. Cloud's orphanage and taught to deliver and abort babies by father figure Dr. Larch. Set in rural Maine in the first half of the twentieth century, this novel follows Homer as he leaves St. Cloud's, works in an apple orchard, falls in love, and discovers his purpose in life.

**Ishiguro, Kazuo*****Remains of the Day***

Near the end of his career, a "perfect" English butler contemplates the dignity, loyalty, and usefulness of his life at Darlington Hall and speculates on his future with the Hall's new American owner.

**Iweala, Uzodinma*****Beasts of No Nation***

The superb debut novel by an American-Nigerian novelist concerns a young boy who endures the horrors of war, rape, and starvation in an unnamed West African nation.

**James, Henry*****Portrait of a Lady\****

The story of an intelligent, attractive American young woman who, in rejecting the men, both good and evil, who pursue her, finds there are "other things a girl can do besides marry."

**Jen, Gish*****Mona in the Promised Land***

Mona Chang moves with her newly prosperous family to Scarshill, New York, where the Chinese have become "the new Jews." A multicultural story that includes wonderful humor.

**Jerome, Jerome K.*****Three Men in a Boat: To Say Nothing of the Dog!***

Three men (and a dog) take a leisurely holiday trip down the Thames at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in this short comic novel.

**Johnson, Dennis*****Jesus' Son***

A twisted, drug-addled, poetic, dreamlike collection of fragments and journeys; a soul-draining voyage of dull and desperate moments. A life in small towns and big cities along the highways of the American heartland. Eleven short stories, one narrator.

**Joyce, James*****Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man\****

In this autobiographical novel, Stephen Dedalus renounces country, religion, family, and lover for his art.

**Kafka, Franz*****The Penal Colony\****

A man turns into a cockroach; an officer is destroyed by the wreck of his own torture machine — these are but two grotesqueries from this collection of lurid, compelling, and brilliant short stories.

**Kazantzakis, Nikos*****The Last Temptation of Christ***

The life of Jesus and his apostles told as if they were ordinary people facing the enormous challenges of their time.

**Kennedy, William*****Ironweed***

Francis Phelan, a one-time professional baseball player, now an alcoholic bum, tries to reconcile himself with the memory of his son and returns to Albany. (The third in the Albany trilogy.)

**Kesey, Ken*****One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***

A novel about events in a mental institution, as told by an observant inmate, Chief. The main events take place after the arrival of McMurphy, a rowdy, comical addition to the institution.

**Kingsolver, Barbara*****The Bean Trees***

Taylor Greer, a high spirited independent girl, travels from Kentucky to Tucson, Arizona in search of independence. She finds a three-year old girl Turtle, a lifelong companion Lou Ann, friendship, love, and a sense of belonging.

**Kinsella, W.P.*****Shoeless Joe***

A farmer who loves baseball is inspired by a mystical voice to erect a shrine to the game in his Iowa cornfield. Baseball greats of the past come to play, and J.D. Salinger makes a cameo appearance.

**Koestler, Arthur*****Thieves in the Night***

A powerful book detailing the struggles of a group of ambitious Jews as they attempt to establish a commune in the Palestine of the 1940's. Based on Koestler's own experiences.

**Kostova, Elizabeth*****The Historian***

A truly terrifying novel, *The Historian* focuses on one woman's dire struggle to understand the mysteries of Vlad the Impaler.

**Krauss, Nicole*****The History of Love***

In this multi-layered, wise and witty novel, which spans three generations and three continents, Krauss tells a story about history and identity with poignancy and insight.

**Kundera, Milan*****The Unbearable Lightness of Being***

In the midst of the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, a young physician is torn between two women: his wife and a free-spirited sensualist.

**Lagerkvist, Par*****Barabbas***

A powerful novel by a Nobel Prize winner about "the acquitted," Barabbas, whose life was exchanged for Jesus's.

**Lahiri, Jhumpa*****Interpreter of Maladies***

A collection of stories that beautifully depict the struggle of all immigrants: to fit into their new home while still retaining the culture of their heritage.

**Lamb, Wally*****She's Come Undone***

Unsteady and obese, Dolores Price survives a painful childhood and a cruel adulthood to become a strong woman, renewed by acceptance of love.

**Lawrence, D.H.*****Son and Lovers\****

Paul Morel embraces and discards three forms of counterfeit love, that of his mother and two sweethearts, in his quest for maturity and independence.

**Le, Nam*****The Boat***

Set in Columbia, New York City, Iowa, Tehran, Hiroshima, and small-town Australia, these important contemporary short stories are global in scope, yet each character is as real as the person next to you.

**Lethem, Jonathan*****Motherless Brooklyn***

A private eye with Tourette's Syndrome deals with a mob coup and murder mystery in this bizarre and captivating homage to the classic detective tale, written by America's most inventive postmodern novelist.

**Levy, Andrea*****Never Far from Nowhere***

This story of two sisters, born in London to Jamaican parents, presents the challenges each confronts as she searches for her place in a predominantly white society.

**Lewis, Sinclair*****Babbitt***

With his portrait of George Babbitt, the prosperous real-estate man from Zenith, Lewis creates one of the ugliest but most convincing stereotypes in American fiction - the total conformist.

**Lightman, Alan*****Einstein's Dreams***

A unique book that combines philosophy, history, and temporal theory. The author has created what he believes Einstein dreamt in the last days before the discovery of relativity. A gripping read.

**Lord, Bette Bao*****Spring Moon***

A novel about the life of Spring Moon, a child of the prominent House of Chang, and her tumultuous experiences during the last years of the Qing Dynasty of China and the early years of the republic.

**McCarthy, Cormac*****The Road***

This haunting vision of a post-apocalyptic world is McCarthy's best work yet. The novel examines the very best and the very worst of humanity as it recounts the simple journey of a boy and his father, walking down a road to the sea.

**McEwen, Ian*****Black Dogs***

A short, moving novel that examines Europe's struggle with and propensity for violence, through the end of World War II up to the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

**McInerney, Jay*****Bright Lights, Big City***

A young New Yorker, grappling with materialism, cocaine addiction, and unhappy relationships, attempts to make sense of his life. The novel is narrated in the second person, an unusual experience.

**McMurtry, Larry*****The Last Picture Show***

Three teenagers, Sonny, Duane, and Jacy, struggle with impending adulthood in a dusty-dead-end Texas town. A deeply moving story of human need and longing.

**Malamud, Bernard*****The Fixer***

This story of the pain and suffering of innocent Yakov Bok, a Jew in Russia, follows him as he is falsely accused of murdering a Christian boy. Based on a true case, this story is very moving.

**Malory, Thomas*****Le Morte D'Arthur***

A classic rendition of the Arthurian Legend.

**Mann, Thomas**

***Death in Venice \****

This short novel follows the fatal obsession of the aging writer Gustav von Aschenbach with a young Polish boy, Tadzio, whom Aschenbach encounters on vacation in Venice.

**Márquez, Gabriel García**

***One Hundred Years of Solitude***

The history of the Buendia family over five generations, through civil wars, tragic deaths, and 1,789 consecutive days of rain. Magical realism at its best.

**Martel, Yann**

***Life of Pi***

Pi Patel's family, the owner of an Indian zoo, is shipwrecked en route to the new home in Canada. Pi, the only human survivor, is stuck on a lifeboat with a tiger named Richard Parker and various other zoo animals.

**Maugham, W. Somerset**

***Of Human Bondage***

The development of hero Phillip Carey, from a childhood blighted by physical deformity to an adulthood stunted by the intriguing Mildred.

**Maxwell, William**

***The Folded Leaf***

Recently reissued, this novel is testimony to Maxwell's reputation. Keeping his emotional distance, Maxwell sensitively portrays the complicated nature of friendship, growing up, and self-discovery.

**Melville, Herman**

***Moby Dick\****

The story of Captain Ahab's feverish obsession with the white whale becomes a dazzling drama about the meaning and purpose of life.

**Miller, Sue**

***While I Was Gone***

A suspenseful novel about how quickly and casually a marriage can be destroyed. A good wife and respected veterinarian, with three grown daughters and a wonderful home, runs away from her life, ends up in a Bohemian group home in Cambridge, and returns one day to a murder.

**Minot, Susan**

***Monkeys***

Nine stories centered on the Vincents, a New England family with a Catholic mother and a Brahmin-background father. The children grow up, enduring a tragic accident.

**Mirvis, Tovah**

***The Ladies Auxiliary***

In this insightful debut novel, a free spirited Jewish convert and her daughter move into the close-knit Orthodox community of Memphis, Tennessee. Small town psychology and chaos emerge as the protagonist threatens the town's ostensibly seamless lifestyle.

**Mistry, Rohinton**

***A Fine Balance***

The story of five individuals living in India who face the horrors of the repressive caste system and the corrupt Indian government.

**Mitchell, David**

***Black Swan Green***

The author, a Booker Prize finalist, tells the story, loosely based on his own childhood, of a teenage boy with a stutter struggling with adolescence in a small English town. Though some British slang may be confusing, this is a very funny, unique, and ultimately profoundly moving story.

**Mitchell, Stephen** (translator)

***Epic of Gilgamesh***

This Mesopotamian epic poem dates from as early as 1700 BCE. In it, Gilgamesh follows a young king of the city of Uruk along his quest for greatness and self-discovery.

**Momaday, N. Scott**

***House Made of Dawn***

A Pulitzer Prize winner, this novel tells the story of a young American Indian caught between the lands of his childhood and the cities of industrial America.

**Moore, Alan and Dave Gibbons**

***Watchmen***

When vigilante justice is outlawed in an alternate, Cold War America, former masked heroes are forced to redefine their place in a society poised on the edge of self-destruction.

**Morrison, Toni**

***Beloved***

Settled in rural Ohio years after the Civil War, Sethe learns to cope with the memories of slavery and the price she has had to pay for freedom.

**Munroe, Alice**

***Runaway***

This short story collection explores the complex and unpredictable world of human interaction. Set in rural Canada, men and women of all ages drift in and out of each others' orbits, pulled by forces they do not understand. Each story is told with a sense of both sympathy and menace.

**Nabokov, Vladimir**

***Pale Fire***

This novel intertwines the 999 line poem of fictional poet John Shade with commentary by his crazy neighbor. Extraordinary writing and a fascinating tale.

**Némirovsky, Irène**

***Suite Française***

Recently found in the diary of a displaced Parisian who fell victim to the holocaust, this novel recounts the realities of war from the civilian perspective.

**Niffenegger, Audrey**

***The Time Traveler's Wife***

As Clare Abshire lives her life in chronological time and Henry DeTamble unwillingly travels through time, both learn key truths about love and themselves.

**O'Brien, Tim**

***Going after Cacciato***

A powerfully emotional novel about the traumatizing effects of war and one man's quest for peace.

**O'Connor, Flannery**

***The Complete Stories***

Southern Gothic masterworks to freeze the heart and chill the soul.

**O'Neill, Joseph**

***Netherland***

This masterpiece of emotional nuance and piercing, precise language tells the story of a divorced Dutchman drowning in ennui in post-9/11 New York.

**Pamuk, Orhan**

***Snow***

In this gripping and beautifully written narrative, a Turkish poet follows love to a city in the midst of political conflict.

**Pankhurst, Carolyn**

***Dogs Of Babel***

A grieving husband unravels the mystery surrounding his wife's death by trying to teach the witness, their dog Lorelei, to talk. In his search for peace, he begins to unravel the mysteries surrounding the couple's life together as well.

**Parker, James L.**

***Once a Runner***

Quentin Cassidy, a miler banned from collegiate competition, trains in seclusion to race a world record holder. Through running Cassidy learns about his own strength. A must for all runners.

**Pasternak, Boris**

***Dr. Zhivago\****

The Russian Revolution as it affects the lives of middle-class Russians: the ruthless Kamarovsky, the beautiful Lara, the westernized Tonia, and the gifted young doctor and poet, Zhivago.

**Patchett, Ann**

***Bel Canto***

When diplomats are taken hostage in a South American country, surprising relationships develop between captors and their captives. An operatic theme runs throughout the novel.

**Perrotta, Tom**

***The Abstinence Teacher***

An honest, balanced look at today's culture wars, this story centers on a fundamentalist Christian group's attempt to influence school curriculum. Spare, realistic prose and a parade of resonant characters.

**Pessl, Marisha**

***Special Topics in Calamity Physics***

Widely acclaimed, this dazzling novel chronicles the adventures, at turns rollicking and deadly, of the brilliant and beautiful sixteen year-old Blue Van Meer.

**Plath, Sylvia**

***The Bell Jar***

In this novel, the now famous poet tells her own story of the suffocations of sexism, provincialism, and mental illness that imperiled her growth and talent.

**Poe, Edgar Allan**

***The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Tales***

The master of Gothic literature serves up the best in prematurely buried, unburied, dismembered, disfigured, and variously butchered humans and felines in this collection of horror stories.

**Potok, Chaim**

***My Name Is Asher Lev***

Born into an Orthodox Jewish family, Asher Lev is confronted by his intense feelings for the creative arts and the disapproving elders who try to discourage his interest.

**Puzo, Mario**

***The Godfather***

The sinister and compelling saga of the Corleone family, which rose from immigrant poverty to dynastic power as gangsters corrupt in might, money, and arrogance.

**Pynchon, Thomas**

***The Crying of Lot 49***

Funny, ironic, sexual, and bizarre, this short but dense novel is the best introduction to Pynchon's work.

**Quindlen, Anna**

***Object Lessons***

Young Maggie finds truth and love while learning that her family isn't what she thought it was.

**Rand, Ayn**

***The Fountainhead***

A long, yet worthwhile, novel about a young, brilliant architect who refuses to lower his ideals for the masses. Discover Rand's unique philosophy through one of the most influential books ever written.

**Raucher, Herman**

***The Summer of '42***

Hermie, Oscy, and Benji, all aged fifteen, innocent and foul-mouthed, obsessed with sex but too young for it, spend a restless and confusing summer in this alternately moving and funny story.

**Robinson, Marilynne**

***Gilead***

The winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, this beautiful novel presents the spiritual struggles and elegiac reflections of the dying Reverend John Ames.

**Roth, Henry**

***Call It Sleep***

A brutally accurate account of Lower East Side slum life seen through the eyes of a Jewish boy.

**Roth, Phillip**

***Goodbye, Columbus and Five Short Stories***

This collection's title story is about a young Radcliffe girl and a Rutgers boy who learn that there is more to love than just passion and exuberance.

**Rushdie, Salman**

***The Satanic Verses***

Arguably the most controversial book of modern times, *The Satanic Verses* explores the concepts of good and evil through a series of dreams, surreal sequences, and revelations.

**Russo, Richard**

***Empire Falls***

2002 Pulitzer Prize Winner for fiction. A subtle drama about the plight of a working class father and daughter in a decaying Northeast mill town.

**Salinger, J.D.**

***Franny and Zooey***

Become acquainted with Salinger's famous Glass family through these two short stories about a young girl's spiritual development.

**Satrapi, Marjane**

***Persepolis***

Told in graphic novel form, this gripping yet poignant memoir tells the story of a girl growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. If you enjoyed Maus, Persepolis is for you.

**Saul, John**

***Shadows***

The story of a young student at an elite school for children with remarkable minds. The school houses horrifying secrets, and this student must resist evil to save himself and his classmates.

**Sebold, Alice**

***The Lovely Bones***

A fourteen-year-old girl watches from Heaven as the people she has left behind strive to cope with her murder. The freshness and hopeful wit in the young girl's voice make this haunting story strangely funny.

**Self, Will**

***The Book of Dave***

The rambling diary of a modern London taxi driver becomes the central document of a post-apocalyptic civilization.

**Shute, Nevil**

***On the Beach***

This book takes place in Australia, after a nuclear war has destroyed the Northern Hemisphere, as radiation slowly drifts south. A fascinating examination of humanity's last days.

**Sinclair, Upton**

***The Jungle***

A muckraking novel which exposed the deplorable conditions of Chicago's stockyards at the turn of the century. This exposé led to government regulations in the industry that still stand today.

**Sittenfield, Curtis**

***Prep***

A beautiful, realistic, and lyrical account of a thoughtful and insecure high school girl and her experiences in a New England prep school similar to Hopkins.

**Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr**

***The First Circle\****

About a Soviet technical institute staffed by political prisoners favored over other prisoners because they are scientists.

**Stegner, Wallace**

***The Big Rock Candy Mountain***

Bo Mason and his family live a life of poverty. They drift from town to town while Bo goes from one get rich quick scheme to the next.

**Steinbeck, John**

***The Grapes of Wrath***

This novel is the story of an Oklahoma family facing great hardship as it tries to survive the Great Depression. One of John Steinbeck's greatest works.

**Stendhal**

***The Red and the Black***

This stunning psychological romance charts the dazzling rise and fall of the ambitious Julien Sorel.

**Stowe, Harriet B.**

***Uncle Tom's Cabin\****

An indictment of slavery, starring the noble, high-minded, devoutly Christian black slave, Uncle Tom, the mulatto girl, Eliza, the good Little Eva, Topsy, who "just growed," and the villainous Simon Legree.

**Strong, Jonathan**

***Elsewhere***

A young, headstrong English teacher allows himself to become mixed up in the lives of three students. His relationships lead him to understand much more than he can ever teach his students.

**Strout, Elizabeth*****Amy and Isabel***

A tense relationship between a single mom and her teenage daughter evolves to reveal important secrets.

**Styron, William*****Sophie's Choice***

Told through the voice of Stingo, a hopeful Southern writer staying in Brooklyn in 1947, *Sophie's Choice* depicts the Holocaust through the horrifying personal experiences of Sophie Zawistowska. A survivor from Poland who lives in an apartment above Stingo, Sophie struggles to maintain a will to live as she recounts her past to Stingo and maintains a relationship with her mentally unstable lover Nathan.

**Tan, Amy*****The Bonesetter's Daughter***

When Ruth Young discovers two packets of papers written in Chinese calligraphy by her estranged and rapidly deteriorating mother, Lu Ling, she is immediately sucked into the mystery and drama of her mother's, her ancestors' and her own history.

**Tartt, Donna*****The Secret History***

Equal parts thriller and literary achievement, this remarkable book centers on a small New England college, where a group of students falls under the influence of a charming professor. This idyll is shattered when the recreation of an ancient ritual goes horribly wrong, leading to one student's death.

**Tolstoy, Leo*****Anna Karenina\****

In his electrically massive portrayal of the upper class life of 19th-century Russia, Tolstoy focuses on both the adulterous love of Anna and Vronsky and the courtship and marriage of Kitty and Levin.

**Toole, John Kennedy*****A Confederacy of Dunces***

The ridiculous Ignatius J. Reilly lives in New Orleans with his mother. In this hilarious novel, Reilly enters the work force for the first time happening upon a variety of zany characters and adventures.

**Trollope, Anthony*****The Way We Live Now***

Trollope captures the essence of human character in his relatively condensed novel. The story follows the defeats and successes of the captivating Carbury family as they forge their way through the harsh realities of 19<sup>th</sup> century British society.

**Tsukiyama, Gail*****The Samurai's Garden***

Seventeen-year-old Stephen leaves his home in Hong Kong just as the Japanese are poised to invade China. He is sent to Tarumi, a small village in Japan, to recuperate from tuberculosis. His developing friendship with three adults and a young woman his own age brings him to the beginnings of wisdom about love, honor, and loss.

**Turgenev, Ivan*****Fathers and Sons\****

This book, written during the early rumblings of the Russian Revolution of 1917, follows Barazov and shows the conflict of generations in Russia prior to the final upheaval.

**Twain, Mark*****The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn\****

Travel down the Mississippi River with two outcasts, Huck and runaway slave Jim, as they share true friendship in the free wilderness and stumble through one perilous adventure after another in the "civilized" towns along the riverbanks.

**Tyler, Anne*****Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant***

The story of family members trying simultaneously to hang on to each other and to free themselves from each other.

**Vonnegut, Kurt*****Slaughterhouse-Five***

This unconventional anti-war novel evokes both hilarity and horror as its non-linear plot leaps from the horrors of WWII, to the future, to the strange planet Tralfamadore.

**Walker, Alice**

***The Color Purple***

In a series of letters, Celie, a young black woman, tells her story of horrifying misery and abuse in childhood and eventual triumph through love, learning, and self-esteem in adulthood.

**Wallace, David Foster**

***Brief Interviews with Hideous Men***

An accessible collection of short stories interspersed with fictional interviews with a series of men, each of whom has a hideous characteristic.

**Walsh, Maurice**

***The Small Dark Man***

Aodh MacFirbis is the small dark man, a wanderer with a rough tongue, an off-beat vocabulary, a heart of gold, and a penchant for taking his own road.

**Waugh, Evelyn**

***A Handful of Dust***

Waugh, one of the great masters of English satire, explores the absurd comedy and profound tragedy of the British upper class in the twentieth century.

**Wharton, Edith**

***House of Mirth***

Lily Bart's vacillation between conformity and rebellion results in social ostracism and tragedy.

**Winterson, Jeanette**

***The Passion***

A lyrical story of the love between Henri, Napoleon's disillusioned cook, and Villanelle, a Venetian pickpocket with a unique deformation whose heart is literally stolen by mysterious woman.

**Wolfe, Thomas**

***Look Homeward, Angel***

Young Eugene Gant struggles toward adulthood and artistry amidst the oppressions of a domineering mother, clinging girlfriend, and Southern provinciality.

**Wolfe, Tom**

***The Bonfire of the Vanities***

On a clandestine date with his mistress one night, WASPy Wall Street investment banker Sherman McCoy gets lost driving in the South Bronx, eventually hitting and injuring a young black man. The following scandal provides a bracingly realistic study of a corrupt, status-fixated society in which two castes clash and blend.

**Wolff, Tobias**

***Old School***

In this author's first fiction novel, an aspiring writer is in his final year at a New England prep school where literature comes before all else. A beautiful, startling, bookish tale.

**Woolf, Virginia**

***To the Lighthouse***

Perhaps Woolf's most accessible novel, this elegiac story presents the Ramsey family's struggles with, and eventual comprehension of, change.

**Wright, Richard**

***Native Son***

A story based on the actual case of a naive young black man who inadvertently murders a white woman.

**Wu, Cheng-En**

***Journey to the West***

Considered one of the four pillars of Chinese literature. Wu Cheng-En tells the story of the Monkey King and his adventures fighting powerful Gods and guiding his master to obtain blessings from Buddha.

**Zusak, Marcus**

***The Book Thief***

Narrated by Death, the story follows the life of Liesel Meminger, a young girl, who loves to read, living outside Munich in Nazi Germany.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

**Belfer, Lauren**

***City of Light***

As Buffalo prepares for the Pan-American Exposition in 1901, Louisa Barrett, the headmistress of a girls' school, tries to free her students from their societal stereotypes while coping with her goddaughter Grace, who is grieving her mother's death. The novel explores the status of women and showcases their personal strength.

**Brooks, Geraldine**

***People of the Book***

Intermingling contemporary voices with historical ones, Pulitzer Prize-winner Brooks traces the story of the Sarajevo haggadah, a priceless Jewish relic from medieval Spain. A rich, moving study of intolerance and courage.

**Carr, Caleb**

***The Alienist***

A group of friends explore the budding fields of psychology and criminology in a gruesome and thrilling hunt for a serial killer in turn of the century New York City.

**Catton, Bruce**

***Mr. Lincoln's Army***

A chronicle of determination, daring, and disillusionment during the Civil War through the eyes of straw-foot country soldiers, supply runners, and generals.

**Cooper, James Fenimore**

***The Last of the Mohicans***

An American classic involving those heroes of the "leatherstocking" series, Natty Bumppo and his Indian companion, Chingachgook, during the colonial wars between France and England.

**Diamant, Anita**

***The Red Tent***

The story of Jacob and his children...with a twist. Told by his only daughter, Dinah, *The Red Tent* gives the side of the story that was never told. From her "four mothers" to the husband that she lost, this touching story fills in the Biblical gaps.

**Doctorow, E.L.**

***Ragtime***

A young boy recounts the interwoven lives of three families, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, who encounter historical figures such as Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, and Sigmund Freud.

**Douglas, Lloyd**

***The Robe***

The son of a Roman senator, exiled for humiliating the Emperor's heir, takes command of a decaying trading post on the Red Sea and finds himself in Jerusalem in time for the crucifixion.

**Eco, Umberto**

***The Name of the Rose***

Mystery, murder, intrigue, theology, and semiotics wreak havoc in an Italian monastery of the 14th century.

**Follett, Ken**

***Pillars of the Earth***

Set in twelfth century England, this gripping narrative explores the clashing ambitions of three men associated with the building of a cathedral. The book provides a very interesting look at life in Medieval England and the social and political evolution of the church.

**Forsythe, Frederick**

***The Day of the Jackal***

Shortly after the French have withdrawn from Nigeria, the meticulous plans for the assassination of a political figure, the renowned Charles DeGaulle, and the equally meticulous search for the assassin unfold in suspenseful succession.

**Graves, Robert**

***I, Claudius***

The dangerous and shady world of Roman politics during the reigns of the first four Emperors, as seen by Tiberius Claudius Drusus Nero Germanicus.

**Harrigan, Stephen*****The Gates of the Alamo***

This fascinating account of the Alamo does not focus on the big figures of the battle, but instead focuses on fictional ordinary people who are brought together to fight for a common cause. The book explores the feelings of nationalism in the people of Texas in the 1840's.

**Higgins, Jack*****The Eagle Has Landed***

In the last years of World War II, Hitler proposes a mission to kidnap Winston Churchill. From the early stages of the plan to the final hours of the mission, this fast-paced adventure makes an exciting read.

**Holt, Victoria*****The Queen's Confession***

The fascinating story of Marie Antoinette, the Austrian woman who came to the throne of France at the age of nineteen. Written as a memoir from her days in prison, the book illustrates her decision to forgive her enemies and die heroically.

**Larson, Erik*****The Devil in the White City***

A chilling novel set during the 1893 Chicago World Fair, the narrative follows the architect who built the famous white city and a vicious serial-killer. The gripping account provides a bleak view of the darker parts of Chicago and the great success of the fair.

**Lederer, William J. & E. Burdick*****The Ugly American***

A forceful indictment of the United States' tactless and also ineffectual conduct of foreign policy in Southeast Asia.

**Lessing, Doris*****The Cleft***

In this stunning and bizarre tale of a possible human history, an old Roman senator who fancies himself a historian tells the tale of the Clefts, a society made up entirely of women, and what results when the first baby boy is born.

**Mailer, Norman*****The Naked And The Dead***

A gripping novel about Americans fighting the Japanese during World War II.

**Randall, Alice*****The Wind Done Gone***

Loosely based on the characters of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, this novel follows Cynara, the slave of Scarlett O'Hara, and presents a picture of the post-Civil War South from an African-American perspective. This novel serves as a compelling revision of the romantic myth presented in Mitchell's novel.

**Shaara, Michael*****Killer Angels***

A gripping view of the battle of Gettysburg through the eyes of the main players, both the famous and the little known.

**Stone, Irving*****The Agony and the Ecstasy***

Stone's exhaustively researched, first-person account of the life of Michelangelo brings alive the bustling streets of Florence, as well as the vivid emotions and surging passion which created the Italian Renaissance.

**Uris, Leon*****Exodus***

Uris writes a fast-moving novel tracing the history of the Jews from the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the establishment of the state of Israel.

**Wouk, Herman*****The Winds of War***

A fictional recreation of the years leading up to America's entry into World War II. In addition to romance and personal drama, the book provides sound insight into pre-war European/American politics.

## NONFICTION

**Abbey, Edward**

***Desert Solitaire***

Following in the footsteps of Thoreau, John Muir, and Aldo Leopold, Abbey wanders through the American Southwest and the wilderness of his imagination.

**Ambrose, Stephen**

***Band of Brothers***

This gripping history follows two WWII US Airborne divisions through training, D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Germany, and the fall of Hitler.

**Angelou, Maya**

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***

A remarkably poetic and very frank autobiography of a young black woman. This is the first volume.

**Applegate, Debby**

***The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher***

Beecher was a Civil War-era preacher whose alleged affair with a parishioner caused nationwide scandal. This Pulitzer Prize-winner, features lively prose and a well-meaning but flawed central character.

**Ballard, Robert**

***The Discovery of the Titanic***

An exciting story by the first person to locate and explore the wreckage of the ship that went down in 1912.

**Bauby, Jean-Dominique**

***The Diving Bell and the Butterfly***

The editor of *Elle* when he had a massive stroke at age 42, Bauby composed this slim memoir letter by letter by blinking his left eye as the alphabet was read to him. Deeply moving and surprisingly funny, this is an extraordinary affirmation of the human spirit.

**Beah, Ishmael**

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***

The inspirational, true story of Ishmael Beah's journey through war-torn Sierra Leone, first as a student, and then as a boy soldier in the government army.

**Bernstein, Carl and Bob Woodward**

***All the President's Men***

Two Legendary journalists recount the saga of their Watergate investigation, a process that leads to the end of a presidency and the birth of an era.

**Bird, Kai and Martin J. Sherwin**

***American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer***

In this biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man who developed the atomic bomb, the reader receives a devastatingly sad look at the life of this figure. The most interesting part of the book is the second half, where the authors give a thorough look at the scientist's troubled life after the bomb was dropped.

**Bissinger, H.G.**

***Friday Night Lights***

An explosive tale of one town's obsession with its high school football team.

**Blum, Deborah**

***Love at Goon Park***

What is love, and how powerful a force is it in our lives? Harry Harlow, one of the greatest psychologists of all time, studied the effects of love on the emotional well-being of monkeys. In one experiment, monkeys had to make choices between wire mothers that could give milk and soft cloth monkeys that could not give milk.

**Boule, Pierre**

***The Bridge over the River Kwai***

Obsessed with his notions of the superiority of English skill and perseverance, a captured British commanding officer, with his entire battalion, builds a bridge under Japanese orders. His pride in English ingenuity ironically makes him an ally of the enemy.

**Boylan, Jennifer Finney**

***She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders***

An English professor describes her lifelong gender identity struggle and her eventual transition from man to woman.

**Brown, Dee**

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee***

The documented account of the plunder of the American Indian. This book tells the Indian's side of the story, the story of broken treaties and massacres.

**Caesar, Gaius Julius**

***The Gallic Wars***

Caesar's account of his conquest of Gaul presents a detailed observation of Gallic politics and the military juggernaut which brought it to its knees. A must read for classicists.

**Carson, Rachel**

***Silent Spring***

In the avant-garde of environmental studies, the author followed up *The Sea Around Us* (1951) with this forceful and influential case against indiscriminate use of insecticides.

**Cary, Lorene**

***Black Ice***

The author deals with the charged issues of adolescence, race, and gender at a posh New England boarding school.

**Chong, Denise**

***The Girl in the Picture***

On June 8, 1972, a nine-year old South Vietnamese girl was napalmed by a misplaced American air strike. The picture that captured her terrified expression that day was reprinted around the world and helped to turn public opinion against the war. This book describes the events leading up to and following June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Cleaver, Eldridge**

***Soul on Ice***

The memoirs of a Black Panther, this novel helped to change the way America viewed the civil rights movement.

**Conway, Jill Ker**

***Road from Coorain***

Conway writes about growing up as a female in the Australian outback and of her eventual accession to the presidency of Smith College. This autobiography provides inspiration to all.

**Corbett, John**

***The Man-Eaters of Kumaon***

John Corbett describes his campaign against the man-eating tigers of Kumaon in the foothills of the Himalayas in India. Corbett shares the experience that made him a great shikari.

**Dawidoff, Nicholas**

***The Crowd Sounds Happy***

The Hopkins' alumnus tells the story of his youth in New Haven: his disturbed father, his remarkable mother, and his love for baseball. A beautiful and measured treatment of a childhood.

**Dawkins, Richard**

***The God Delusion***

In the controversial bestseller, the Oxford biologist presents powerful arguments against both the existence of God and the merits of religion.

**DeKay, James Tertius**

***Monitor***

A historical account of the epic sea battle between the *Monitor* and the *Virginia*, during America's Civil War. This fascinating gem reads like an adventure novel.

**Delaney, Sarah L. and Elizabeth**

***Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years***

In this candid autobiography, sisters Sarah and Elizabeth Delaney recount over one hundred years of life as Black Americans. Born in 1891 and 1893, the sisters describe their experiences with education, family, Jim Crow, the Harlem Renaissance, and along the way share their wisdom on health, survival and happiness.

**Diamond, Jared**

***Guns, Germs and Steel***

An intricate analysis of Western civilization's conquest of the globe during the Age of Exploration. This book ties historical background to modern theories to uncover the underlying forces that enabled Europe to dominate the world. A triumph of analytical history with profound significance for the societies of today.

**Didion, Joan**

***The Year of Magical Thinking***

Joan Didion's latest masterpiece: the heart-wrenching narrative of her devastating year, the year of magical thinking. Brutally honest and beautifully articulated, Didion achingly uncovers the shock, disbelief and pain following the death of her husband and the hospitalization of her only daughter.

**Dillard, Annie**

***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek***

A Pulitzer Prize-winning story of the natural surroundings in which the Pittsburgh-born journalist lives.

**Dusing, Bill**

***Living on the Earth***

A collection of essays by a Connecticut farmer that comments on our environment, our political process, and the beauty of nature.

**Dylan, Bob**

***Chronicles: Volume One***

Evocative and eccentric, Bob Dylan charts his intellectual development in this autobiography, an achievement as revelatory as his best albums.

**Eiseley, Loren**

***The Immense Journey***

Eiseley explores the wonder of the natural world in a series of scientific essays from "Little Men and Flying Saucers" to "The Secret of Life."

**Feinstein, John**

***A Season on the Brink***

In this best-selling book, we see everything from heartbreak to triumph during a season with the most famous basketball coach ever, Bobby Knight of the Hoosiers.

**Filkins, Dexter**

***The Forever War***

Filkins, a *New York Times* war reporter, tells the story of life in Iraq and Afghanistan. By turns thrilling, shocking, saddening, and enraging, this is a crucial work for those seeking to understand the post-Bush, post-9/11 world.

**Firlik, Katrina**

***Another Day in the Frontal Lobe***

Written by a neurosurgeon at Greenwich Hospital, this witty account of brain surgery intertwines both case studies and the more emotional aspects of medicine.

**Fisher, Antwone Q.**

***Finding Fish: A Memoir***

This autobiography chronicles the life of its author, Antwone Fisher. It eloquently shows how one young man can transform himself from a neglected and abused foster child into a successful and influential artist and author.

**Franklin, Benjamin**

***Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin\****

An honest view - factual but amusing - of Ben Franklin as scientist, inventor, educator, diplomat, politician, father, husband, friend, and humorist.

**Freidan, Betty**

***The Feminine Mystique***

When *The Feminine Mystique* was published in 1963, it exploded into American consciousness and started a feminist revolution. It is still relevant and provocative today.

**Freud, Sigmund**

***The Psychopathology of Everyday Life***

A fascinating study of our "forgetfulness," our suggestive "slips of the tongue," and other mechanisms by which we conceal and unknowingly expose ourselves.

- Fussell, Paul** *The Great War and Modern Memory*  
Winner of numerous literary awards, this work explores the culture and the poetry of World War I in a way that is both scholarly and intensely moving and proves that armed men of that war achieved heroism of epic proportions.
- Garrett, Laurie** *The Coming Plague*  
A frightening, premonitory book on the perils that threaten the human race: Ebola, Lassa, AIDS, genetic engineering, drug-resistant bacteria, and global warming.
- Gladwell, Malcolm** *Blink*  
A fascinating book that explains the power of thinking without thinking, as well as how to take advantage of one's instincts and why some people are better at making quick decisions than others.
- Gleick, James** *Genius*  
This biography of the late great physicist Richard Feynman provides a fascinating insight into the life and mind of one of this century's most brilliant scientists.
- Gould, Stephen Jay** *Bully for Brontosaurus*  
This collection of essays by Stephen Jay Gould, a professor of zoology and geology at Harvard, is both illuminating and entertaining. All loosely related to natural history, Gould never talks down to his reader and provides a truly satisfying read.
- Grealy, Lucy** *Autobiography of a Face*  
A memoir about the pain of physical difference and the unique insight that results. Told within the context of an extraordinary tale of survival.
- Greenblatt, Stephen** *Will in the World*  
Combining literary criticism with historical imagination, Greenblatt attempts to provide a coherent vision of Shakespeare's elusive biography, and does so in a superbly readable and engaging fashion.
- Greene, Brian** *The Elegant Universe*  
Greene explores a realm whose fundamental unit is a tiny, multidimensional string, where space-time can warp, tear, and mend itself, and the final theory may be only years away. The biggest surprise, though, is that we are the inhabitants of this beautifully complex universe.
- Greenlaw, Linda** *The Hungry Ocean*  
One of the world's few female swordfish boat captains recounts her tale of a thirty day adventure. This sea story belongs on the shelf with "The Perfect Storm."
- Gurko, Miriam** *The Ladies of Seneca Falls*  
This book is a compelling and comprehensive account of the events surrounding the birth of the Women's Rights Movement in America.
- Haggard, H. Rider** *King Solomon's Mines*  
Highly colored romance and adventure in Central Africa in quest of King Solomon's Ophir. Sensational fights, bloodcurdling perils, and extraordinary escapes.
- Halberstam, David** *The Summer of '49*  
The Pennant Race of 1949 has come down to the final game of the season, between the most celebrated rivals in baseball's history: the Yankees and the Red Sox.
- Haley, Alex and Malcolm X** *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*  
Malcolm X recalls his early childhood, introduction to sordid Harlem, years in prison, when he became a disciple of Elijah Muhammad, the Black Muslim, and his journey to Mecca, which occasioned his eventual break with Muhammad.
- Harrington, Michael** *The Other American*  
An impressive survey of the depressing landscape of poverty in America.

**Hawking, Stephen*****A Brief History of Time***

Hawking explores fundamental questions about the beginning of the universe, time, and matter in a book that is as readable as it is profound.

**Hayden, Torey L.*****Somebody Else's Kids***

A remarkable story told by the author about four problem children put into her class, whom no one knew what to do with, and how she gave them what no one else could—a second chance.

**Hendra, Tony*****Father Joe***

Hendra intersperses his account of his life and satirical career with trips to see his spiritual mentor, monk Father Joe. Hendra's talks with Father Joe suggest that life's truths remain valid whether a life is spent in a monastery or in the presence of Monty Python.

**Hersey, John*****Hiroshima***

A collection of first hand accounts from the survivors of the day when the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

**Hofstadter, Douglas R.*****Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid***

The worlds of science and art, of language and mathematics come together in this intellectual tour de force.

**Hopkins, Jerry & Danny Sugarman*****No One Here Gets Out Alive***

The biography of Jim Morrison, of the Doors, who rose to fame and fortune and crashed to his demise.

**Junger, Sebastian*****The Perfect Storm***

The storm hit with no warning, and the author describes what it feels like to be caught, powerless, by the fury of the elements, unable to control or even comprehend the power of nature.

**Kagan, Donald*****Peloponnesian War***

A thrilling account of the Peloponnesian War for the casual reader. Examining the war from the diplomacy that birthed it to the destruction which ended it, Kagan presents a fresh and vivid view of the conflict without sacrificing detail or scope.

**Karr, Mary*****The Liar's Club***

At once poetic and astonishingly witty, this memoir tells the story of a young Texas girl growing up by the seat of her pants.

**Kayson, Susanna*****Girl, Interrupted***

Taken from the name of a painting by Jan Vermeer, this book's title frames the context for the adolescence of a girl whose life was indeed "interrupted" by three years in a mental hospital.

**Kerouac, Jack*****On the Road***

Father of the Beat Generation, Kerouac recounts several cross-country drives he took in his automobile and conveys the curious mixture of frenzy and ennui; passion and alienation; yearning and despair that sent him careening through space.

**Kipling, Rudyard*****Captains Courageous***

Harvey Cheyne, a rich and spoiled fifteen-year-old, bound for Europe on a swift ocean liner, is swept overboard during a storm. He is saved by a fishing vessel, and thus begins his adventure on the high seas.

**Klein, Genda Weissmann*****All But My Life***

The autobiography of a girl struggling to survive during the Holocaust, reminiscent of Anne Frank's famous diary.

**Krakauer, Jonathan*****Into Thin Air***

A first-hand account of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster. The author recounts the expedition and reflects on the compulsions that drive people to make the treacherous climb. (Equally good: *Into the Wild*.)

- Lacy, Robert and Danny Danziger**                      ***The Year 1000***  
An historian and a journalist delve beyond kings and battles to describe gritty, everyday life in eleventh century England in the context of world events.
- Leopold, Aldo**    ***Sand County Almanac***  
A journal of the land, this book, that arguably started the modern environmental movement, is a lyrical and moving portrait of place in the tradition of Walden.
- Levi, Primo**    ***Survival in Auschwitz***  
The author's vivid, incredible account of ten months spent in concentration camps, during World War II.
- Levin, Carole**    ***The Heart and Stomach of a King***  
"I may have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king," said Queen Elizabeth in a speech prior to her troops' defeat of the Spanish Armada. This book examines Queen Elizabeth I as an unconventional ruler who contradicted gender stereotypes and proved to be one of the world's most influential leaders.
- Lindley, David**    ***Uncertainty: Einstein, Heisenberg, Bohr, and the Struggle for the Soul of Science***  
This book provides an in-depth look at Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle and its many effects on the scientists of the time. Many chemistry students will find this book very enlightening, as it delves deeper into many topics only brushed upon during the survey course.
- Lorenz, Konrad**    ***On Aggression***  
Beginning with fish, and progressing to birds, dogs, and eventually people, Lorenz studies the purposes, benefits, and dangers of intra-specific aggression.
- MacKay, Charles, et al**    ***Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds***  
Great cons, grand-scale madness, and bizarre schemes dominate this wonderfully eclectic collection of zaniness and mania from the past.
- McCourt, Frank**    ***Angela's Ashes***  
The riveting and appalling story of a family's absolute devastation amid the squalor and poverty of Ireland, told with brutal honesty and also, miraculously, with fine humor.
- McCullough, David**    ***John Adams***  
In this biography of the illustrious president and statesman, McCullough exposes the darker side of our founding father, revealing his belligerent personality through humorous anecdotes.
- McPhee, John**    ***Encounters with the Archdruid***  
A brilliantly written portrait of David Brower, environmentalist par excellence.
- Maraniss, David**    ***They Marched into the Sunlight***  
This brilliant work follows the stories of the soldiers on the battlefield, the students at the University of Wisconsin, and the leaders in Washington during the a few fateful days of the Vietnam War. The book masterfully intertwines these stories and allows the reader to pull together three very different views of the war.
- Markham, Beryl**    ***West with the Night***  
The author, a pilot, inspires admiration for her courage and sensitivity in this story of daring flights across Africa during the early days of aviation.
- Massie, Robert**    ***Nicholas and Alexandra***  
Czarevich Alexis' hemophilia draws the fraudulent monk Rasputin to the center of power in Russia, where his evil influence is a factor in the developing Revolution of 1917.

**Mezrich, Ben**

***Bringing Down the House***

This is the fascinating story of the MIT blackjack team, a group of talented student-gamblers who go to Vegas, Atlantic City, and other casinos, and win. The story follows their successes and failures as they are hunted down by the casino private investigators.

**Mishima, Yukio**

***Sun and Steel***

The autobiography of Japan's most famous modern writer traces his life from delicate childhood to fierce, truculent defense of Japanese traditions and ends with preparations for his Samurai ritual suicide.

**Monette, Paul**

***Becoming a Man***

This intense, poetic autobiography follows Monette from childhood to college, charting his struggles with identity, art, and sexuality.

**Norwich, John Julius**

***A Short History of Byzantium***

1,123 years of war and debauchery in just 496 engaging pages.

**Philbrick, Nathaniel**

***In the Heart of the Sea***

The harrowing true story of the whale ship *Essex*, inexplicably sunk by a sperm whale. The story follows the crew on their ill-fated search for land. The story of the *Essex* inspired the conclusion of Melville's *Moby Dick*.

**Plimpton, George**

***The Best of Plimpton***

The writer of many sports essays, Plimpton collects his very best work in this book.

**Plutarch**

***Lives of Noble Greeks and Romans\****

A series of short biographies of famous political, literary, and artistic figures from the Golden Age of Greece and Rome.

**Reston Jr., James**

***Warriors of God***

This gripping narrative of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crusade examines the conflict through the forceful personalities of its leaders, England's Richard the Lionheart and the great Sultan Saladin.

**Rilke, Rainer Maria**

***Letters to a Young Poet***

A collection of 10 letters written by Rilke to a confused and frustrated youth. This collection is a must-read for young adults struggling to find security and peace in their lives.

**Roach, Mary**

***Stiff***

An enthralling journey to the actual land of the dead. Roach humorously explores the "life" of cadavers and how someone can make a difference, even when he or she is stone-cold dead.

**Rodriguez, Richard**

***Hunger for Memory***

A beautiful and reflective study of the ambiguous value of an American education for a talented Mexican-American.

**Ruff, Willie**

***A Call to Assembly***

The famous musician, who teaches at Yale (and performs sometimes at Hopkins), tells the inspiring story of his life.

**Salzman, Mark**

***Iron & Silk***

A young American teacher tells of his experiences in China during the early 1980's, right after the end of the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

**Santos-Dumont, Alberto**

***Man Flies: The Story of Alberto Santos-Dumont***

In this autobiography, one of the pioneers of aviation, Alberto Santos-Dumont, tells the story of his lavish lifestyle as well as his fascination with flight.

**Schama, Simon*****Citizens***

This history of the French Revolution, written by one of our most accomplished living historians, was appropriately called “an argument in the form of a story.” Narrative history at its best.

**Sedaris, David*****Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim***

In this collection of short essays, Sedaris exhibits his satirical views on his own life. His funny and thoughtful essays portray images true to everyday life, and he carefully mixes intelligent insights with humorous rants.

**Sevela, Ephraim*****We Were Not Like Other People***

A tough-minded Russian Jew gives a straightforward account of his travels through Siberia and Germany during World War II.

**Sheldon, Sidney*****If Tomorrow Comes***

Tracy Whitney is framed into a fifteen-year sentence for a crime she did not commit. Yet another Sheldon masterpiece of suspense and surprise.

**Shilts, Randy*****And the Band Played On***

A powerful account of scientists' and politicians' willful indifference to the spread of AIDS.

**Singer, Isaac Bashevis*****In My Father's Court***

In these memoirs of the author's childhood in Warsaw, where his father was a poor Rabbi, Singer gives a child's view of adult complexities — divorce, war, love affairs, and poverty.

**Smith, Adam*****The Wealth of Nations***

Widely regarded as a definitive work of modern economic theory, Smith's “epic” study of human interactions within large-scale societies laid the foundation for economic thinkers from Alexander Hamilton to Karl Marx to Alan Greenspan. An excellent, eminently readable introduction to economics.

**Smith, Hendrick*****The Power Game***

Students of modern government could not hope for a sharper picture of American politics. Smith discusses anecdotes from his years as a New York Times correspondent and uses them to explain how the government really works.

**Spence, Jonathan*****The Search for Modern China***

The British historian portrays China's history from the fall of the Ming Dynasty to present day. Despite its length, truly an enjoyable book to read.

**Stewart, Rory*****The Places In Between***

A Scottish writer records his experience walking across Afghanistan in a masterpiece of journalism, anthropology, and political commentary.

**Sykes, Bryan*****The Seven Daughters of Eve***

This fascinating story of one scientist's research traces the origin of all Europeans back in time to seven women. Sykes combines modern science, imaginative narration, and eloquent humor to create a captivating book.

**Telander, Rich*****Heaven Is a Playground***

Basketball games played in big arenas may draw the headlines, but the heart and soul of the game are still found on the playgrounds and school yards of the inner city. An unforgettable look at friendships, frustrations, dreams, and the reality of youthful life in the ghetto.

**Theroux, Paul*****The Great Railway Bazaar***

For lovers of trains and travel — this ride begins exotically on the Orient Express and ends eerily on the Trans-Siberian Express.

**Thompson, Dr. Hunter S.**

***The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales from a Strange Time***

Thompson's collected essays from 1956 to the end of the 1970s, chronicling political campaigns, scandals, trials, sporting events, the Hells Angels, and the infamous Las Vegas escapades, all in distinctive Gonzo style.

**Tolan, Sandy**

***The Lemon Tree***

A true story of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict told through the experiences of Bashir Khairi and Dalia Eshkenazi. This book provides two opposite and informative views of this controversial war which allows the reader to understand the conflict from both ends of the spectrum.

**Tuchman, Barbara**

***A Distant Mirror***

A book about France in the 14th century as seen through the life of the good knight Enguerrand de Coucy VII.

**Van DeVanter, Lynda**

***Home Before Morning***

A nurse tells her moving and often horrifying story of medical service in Vietnam during the war.

**Wallace, David Foster**

***Everything and More***

This mathematical and philosophical—but also readable and entertaining—book by the acclaimed novelist chronicles the history of the concept of infinity.

**Walls, Jeanette**

***The Glass Castle: A Memoir***

A captivating memoir about Walls' childhood that paints a poignant portrait of one of the most unconventional families in America, complete with eccentric parents, fires, stars, and glass castles.

**Waugh, John**

***The Class of 1846***

No single group of men at West Point has been so indelibly written into history as the class of 1846. The class fought in three wars, produced twenty generals, and left the nation a lasting legacy of bravery, brilliance, and bloodshed. This fascinating chronicle traces the lives of these unforgettable men.

**Welty, Eudora**

***One Writer's Beginnings***

The priceless reminiscence of a young girl growing up in Mississippi.

**West, Jessamyn**

***The Woman Said Yes***

In this extremely thoughtful, two-part work, the author recounts a childhood assent to recovery from serious illness and an adult assent to euthanasia.

**White, E.B.**

***One Man's Meat***

A collection of personal essays about "peaceful pursuits," written with delightful and congenial humor.

**Wiesel, Elie**

***Night***

The personal account of a fifteen-year-old Jewish boy who survived the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald during the Holocaust.

**Wilsey, Sean**

***Oh the Glory of it All***

This bestselling memoir of the son of San Francisco socialites is in the same vein as works by David Eggers and David F. Wallace. Witty, dramatic, dense, and sad, it is one of the better coming-of-age stories of the new millennium.

**Winchester, Simon**

***The Professor and the Madman***

Graduate of Hopkins and Yale, William C. Minor, in prison for life, dominates this sensational tale of murder, madness, and the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary.

**Zehme, Bill**

***Lost in the Funhouse: The Life and Mind of Andy Kaufman***

Zehme actually succeeds in probing the mind of this legendary performance artist: his unique routines, his questionable psychosis, and his tragic death.

## PHILOSOPHY

**Aristotle**

***The Ethics***

In this crucial work of Western philosophy, Aristotle seeks to give meaning to human actions and to provide an understanding of happiness and virtuous living.

**Cutler, Howard C. and**

**His Holiness The Dalai Lama**

***The Art of Happiness***

This interview with the Dalai Lama explains the importance of seeking happiness and the ways to find it. Is it better to obtain everything we want or to want and appreciate what we have? How can we strengthen our connection to others and face suffering in our lives?

**De Montaigne, Michel**

***The Complete Essays***

The great seventeenth-century philosopher discusses subjects ranging from the custom of wearing clothes to cannibals.

**Gandhi, Mohandas K.**

***Satyagraha***

Various articles and interviews of Gandhi describing the philosophies and effectiveness of non-violent resistance (satyagraha).

**Herrigel, Eugen**

***Zen in the Art of Archery***

The novel follows a Westerner's experience with the art of Zen. Through Archery, Herrigel begins to understand the ideas present in Buddhist doctrines and learns about the ancient ways of Japan.

**James, William**

***Pragmatism***

A uniquely American take on philosophy and logic, which demonstrates that it is the pragmatist who, guided by the experience of the senses and the working body of truth each person carries with him, is able to apply abstract philosophical ideas directly into his or her own life. Articulate, clear, and often very funny, James speaks plainly and directly to those wishing for a clear look into philosophy.

**Kierkegaard, Søren**

***Fear and Trembling\****

Through clever analysis of God's ordering Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the philosopher examines faith, ethics, and man's unique position as a religious being.

**Kyokai, Bukkyo Dondo**

***The Teachings of Buddha***

Buddha's teachings filled over five thousand volumes and have been preserved for more than two and a half thousand years. This translation conveys the virtues of Buddhism in a simple, comprehensible manner.

**Machiavelli, Niccolo**

***The Prince\****

Machiavelli's advice to the Medici rulers of Florence on government, philosophy and history are combined in this influential and often incorrectly cited work.

**Marx, Karl**

***The Communist Manifesto***

This fundamental text combines political philosophy, revolutionary spirit, and prophecy into a lively yet concise package of thought. Highly recommended for anyone interested in politics or history.

**More, Sir Thomas**

***Utopia\****

In this brief, philosophically pithy work, the author searches for the best possible form of government.

**Musashi, Miyatoto**

***The Book of Five Rings***

The definitive Japanese work of strategy, written in the seventeenth century, is considered required reading for everyone from martial artists to modern business people.

**Nietzsche, Frederich**

***Thus Spoke Zarathustra***

This landmark work is Nietzsche's fullest exploration of his notion of the Superman, a supremely passionate and visionary individual with extraordinary capabilities.

**Plato**

***The Republic\****

Extremely influential in shaping Western ideals, this renowned work presents a perfect state, where trust and beauty take the place of all mean emotions and considerations.

**Thoreau, Henry David**

***Walden***

Harvard-educated transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau considers man's existence with relation to the natural world, refuting a life of "quiet desperation" by living alone for two years on tranquil Walden Pond.

**Tzu, Lao**

***Tao Te Ching***

Ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu reflects the foundations of eastern philosophy through his masterpiece *Tao Te Ching*, where he discusses the significance of "tao" and its omnipresence in life.

## PLAYS/POETRY

**Aligheri, Dante**

***The Inferno\****

The first and most famous book of the *Divine Comedy* in which Virgil leads Dante through seven concentric circles of Hell wherein he meets literary, mythological characters as well as prominent 15th-century Florentines.

**Aristophanes**

***Lysistrata***

A political comedy from 411 BCE. The women of Athens, Sparta, Boeotia, and Corinth band together to end the Peloponnesian War and bring their husbands home.

**Baudelaire, Charles,**

**trans. Richard Howard**

***Les Fleurs Du Mal***

A revolutionary, scandalous collection when first published; this beautiful, philosophical poetry is unafraid of exploring the uncomfortable or the taboo.

**Beckett, Samuel**

***Waiting for Godot\****

A tragic comedy in two acts. As they wait, Estragon and Vladimir demonstrate hope which is deceived and deferred but never abandoned.

**Bennett, Alan**

***The History Boys: A Play***

A witty yet heartbreaking character drama about the intellectual and sexual exploits of British schoolboys as they are influenced by powerful teachers and their corresponding philosophies of education.

**Bishop, Elizabeth**

***The Complete Poems: 1927-1979***

Bishop's witty, reticent, and beautiful poetry focuses on her visions for and impressions of the world around her.

**Chekhov, Anton**

***The Cherry Orchard\****

Generally acknowledged as Chekhov's best play, this story of Russian lethargy, sadness, and ennui actually pulses with wit, charm, and love.

**Collins, Billy**

***Nine Horses***

These simply written poems explore profound themes and allow the reader to come to his or her own conclusions about the meanings.

**Dickinson, Emily*****The Essential Dickinson***

Emily Dickinson is one of the greatest poets of all time. These selections, chosen by Joyce Carol Oates, mark Dickinson's best poetic works.

**Edson, Margaret*****Wit***

Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., a professor of English who has spent years studying and teaching the sonnets of poet John Donne, has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. During the course of her illness, Vivian comes to reassess her life and her work with humor and wisdom.

**Eliot, T.S.*****Collected Poems***

Poetry about spiritual emptiness and other amusing topics. Difficult, but worth it.

**Frost, Robert*****The Poetry of Robert Frost*  
(Edward Connery Lathem, ed.)**

This book brings together for the first time the full contents of all eleven of Frost's individual books of verse, from *A Boy's Will* through *In the Clearing*.

**Hellman, Lillian*****The Children's Hour***

A malicious child brings tragedy to the two young women who own a boarding school when she accuses them of being lesbians.

**Herbert, Zbigniew, trans. Czeslaw Milosz** ***Selected Poems***

Sometimes austere, sometimes sardonic, these poems, written by one of Poland's greatest poets, are translated into English by another.

**Ibsen, Henrik*****A Doll's House\****

Nora, a wife both subservient and pampered, acknowledges the hypocrisy of her "fairy-tale" life.

**Ionesco, Eugene, trans. Derek Prouse** ***Rhinoceros and Other Plays***

Berenger, the French everyman, watches horrified as his closest friends turn slowly into rhinoceroses in this seminal work of the theater of the absurd.

**Kaufman, Moises*****The Laramie Project***

This play presents the reflections of the citizens of Laramie, Wyoming, the site of the murder of gay student Matthew Shepard, as they attempt to understand the crime and its causes.

**Keats, John*****The Poetical Works of John Keats,*  
(H. Buxton Forman, and ed.)**

The whole of Keats' known works in verse are included in this volume including sixteen lines of *The Eve of St. Mark*, found by the editor in Keats' scrapbook.

**Khayyam, Omar*****The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam***

Persian philosopher and scientist speaks in poetry of life, death, love, and drinking in the woods.

**Lorca, Federico** (Donald M. Allen, ed.)***The Selected Poems of Federico Garcia Lorca***

A selection of Lorca's beautiful and timeless poems written in both their native Spanish and the translated English.

**Mamet, David*****Glengary Glen Ross***

A gritty, realistic drama in which an office competition goes bad: first prize is a Cadillac; third prize is loss of a job.

**Marlowe, Christopher*****Dr. Faustus\****

A man sells his soul to gain knowledge and power.

**Merwin, W.S.*****Migration***

Migration is the distillation of a profound body of work, drawing the best poems from Merwin's acclaimed 17 books, and including a selection of new poems. It charts his evolving poetic style, dedication to bearing witness, and artistic and political nerve. A subtle but arresting masterpiece.

**Miller, Arthur*****All My Sons***

An intense family drama about Joe Keller, a man who must come to terms with his family and take responsibility for his actions during WWII.

**Milton, John*****Paradise Lost\****

One of England's greatest poets offers a philosophical epic at once so piercing in approach, so stimulating in effect, and so gentle in feeling that it becomes both a joy and a necessity to think about the religious questions he addresses.

**Neruda, Pablo*****20 Love Poems and a Song of Despair***

These romantic poems, which launched the Nobel Prize-winning poet to international fame, present Neruda's search to understand love and its many incarnations of joy, passion, desire, and longing.

**Oliver, Mary*****New and Selected Poems: Volume One***

These poems by Mary Oliver glow with joyful lyricism and a strong connection to the natural world's many modes and meanings.

**Rich, Adrienne*****The Dream of a Common Language***

Powerful and elegant, Rich's poetry explores life, love, and femininity.

**Rilke, Rainer Maria*****The Selected Poetry (Stephen Mitchell, ed. and trans.)***

Stephen Mitchell does justice to Rilke's out-of-this-world poetry. One reviewer says, "It is easy to feel that if Rilke had written in English, he would have written in this English." Everyone can find something in Rilke's poetry to relate to. His work is profound yet beautiful and enjoyable.

**Rose, Reginald*****Twelve Angry Men***

This intense and suspenseful 1950s drama unfolds over the course several hours as an all-white jury deliberates over the fate of an African-American accused of murder.

**Rostand, Edmond*****Cyrano de Bergerac***

Swashbuckling, eloquent, and overflowing with panache, Cyrano's is one of the most unforgettable personalities in all of drama.

**Ruhl, Sarah*****The Clean House and Other Plays***

This fantastic collection of plays includes, among others, *The Clean House*, a story of uncommon romance and unforgettable comedy, and *Eurydice*, a reinvention of the classic Greek tragedy of Orpheus and Eurydice.

**Sappho*****Poems, A New Version***

Translated by Willis Barnstone, this collection showcases the woman Plato hailed as the tenth Muse. This new translation effectively captures the striking intensity of Sappho's surviving work.

**Shakespeare, William*****Twelfth Night***

This comedy full of mistaken identities and confused lovers centers around Viola. Shipwrecked and separated from her brother, Viola takes on the appearance of a man and falls in love with her employer, Orsino.

**Shaw, George B.*****Pygmalion\****

The transformation of Cockney flower seller, Eliza Doolittle, into a passable imitation of a duchess by the phonetician, Professor Henry Higgins. This play was the drama upon which Lerner and Loewe based their musical *My Fair Lady*.

**Shepard, Sam**

***Curse of the Starving Class***

This comic tragedy traces the undoing of the classically American yet utterly dysfunctional Tate family as they struggle to connect with each other and to validate themselves and their lives.

**Stevens, Wallace**

***Harmonium***

Written by one of the greatest American poets, the poems in this collection are sometimes philosophical, mysterious, and imposing, but, always, they are exquisitely beautiful.

**Stoppard, Tom**

***The Real Inspector Hound***

In a classic parody of detective stories from all ages, Stoppard creates a mansion, a murder, and total mayhem, all of which is painfully spelled out for the audience in humorous exposition.

**Virgil**

***The Aeneid\****

The adventures of the Trojan War hero Aeneas in his great love for Dido and his epic struggle to found Rome.

**Vogel, Paula**

***How I Learned to Drive***

Told through the troubling relationship between a young girl named L'il Bit and her older Uncle Peck, this winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize is a funny, twisted, and devastating tale about family and growing up.

**Whitman, Walt**

***Leaves of Grass***

This masterpiece of the original American visionary poet encompasses all of humanity using a simple yet profound voice.

**Wilde, Oscar**

***The Importance of Being Earnest***

In this farcical play, two men masquerade as the made-up character, Ernest Worthing, in order to win the women of their dreams. When these two women unexpectedly meet, however, and believe they are engaged to the same man, mayhem ensues.

**Wilder, Thornton**

***The Skin of Our Teeth***

In this classic 1942 comedy, inventor George Antrabus, his wife, two children, their maid, Sabina, and all of Excelsior, New Jersey face plague, pestilence, war, depression, flood, and fire. They survive.

**Williams, Tennessee**

***A Streetcar Named Desire\****

The rough virility of Stanley Kowalski confronts the fragile femininity of Blanche Dubois in this hopeless collision of brutal vitality and cultural decadence. Steamily set in New Orleans.

**Wordsworth, William and  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

***Lyrical Ballads \****

This revolutionary volume of poems, written by two of the greatest English poets, helped to launch the Romantic movement in literature and contains some of its greatest verse.

**Zindel, Paul**

***The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon  
Marigolds***

Tilli, a resilient young girl, finds, through imagination and love of science, the inspiration to look upon the world with uninhibited optimism despite the pain she suffers.

**MYSTERY**

**Cain, James**

***Double Indemnity/The Postman Always Rings Twice***

Two short, yet unforgettable stories of passion and insurance fraud. Tough fiction at its finest.

**Chandler, Raymond**

***Farewell, My Lovely***

Hard-boiled detective stories from the private-eye era of the 1940's.

**Chesterton, G.K.**

***Father Brown Omnibus***

This collection of stories features a nondescript English priest who outwits the greatest detectives of his day, aids in elopements, befriends jewel thieves, rescues innocents from the gallows, and confronts corpses.

**Diehl, William**

***Show of Evil***

In this sequel to the blockbuster *Primal Fear*, chief prosecutor Martin Vale seeks to right his mistakes by placing behind bars the serial killer he once set free.

**Hammett, Dashiell**

***The Maltese Falcon***

Nothing is as it seems as an audacious detective investigates the murder of his partner.

**Hillerman, Tony**

***The Blessing Way***

Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn of Navajo "law and order" tracks a wanted man's murderer, while Bergen McKee, anthropologist, tracks a walking Navajo myth in Canyon country.

**MacDonald, John D.**

***A Purple Place for Dying***

A murder hunt just north of Mexico, featuring Mona Yeoman — blond, beautiful, and dead — and Travis McGee — beach bum and "Salvage Expert."

**McCullough, David (Editor)**

***Great Detectives: A Collection of Mysteries***

Suspect and accuse, determine and deduce your way through this collection of stories which include the best of "the great detectives."

**Puig, Manuel**

***Kiss of the Spider Woman***

Two men imprisoned together in Argentina build a relationship on love, movies, and politics.

**Sayers, Dorothy**

***Gaudy Night***

From the master of mysteries for educated mystery lovers comes this weird, intriguing story set in a women's college at Oxford, starring Harriet Vane on the criminal trail with plenty of time out, between suspects, for her romance with Lord Peter Wimsey.

**Tey, Josephine**

***Brat Farrar***

A young man steals the life of his dead twin and impersonates him as a horse farmer in the English countryside.

**Turow, Scott**

***Presumed Innocent***

The story of a prosecuting attorney named Rusty who is secretly having an affair. Soon after breaking up with his mistress, she is found dead, and all of the evidence points toward him.

## **SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY**

**Asimov, Isaac**

***I, Robot***

By blurring the line between robots and humans, the author explores the meaning of humanity.

**Barker, Clive.**

***Abarat***

Candy Quackenbush's life in Chickentown, Minnesota is utterly boring, until an ocean rolls into the plains near her town. The waves carry her to the Abarat, an archipelago of twenty-four islands, each of which corresponds to an hour of the day.

**Clarke, Arthur C.**

***Childhood's End***

Superior beings from outer space take over the earth in this science fiction novel, which is one of the most famous science fiction tales.

**Dick, Philip K.**

***Radio Free Albemuth***

This posthumously published novel offers a rewritten history of an America that suffers from political oppression.

**Heinlein, Robert*****Stranger in a Strange Land***

A heroic stranger, reared on Mars, returns to Earth to create a Utopian society.

**Herbert, Frank*****Dune***

Arrakis, the desert planet also known as Dune, is home of the Atrides and sand-worms. A masterpiece of science fiction.

**Lovecraft, H.P.*****The Doom That Came to Sarnath and Other Stories***

Twenty short stories (several of which have been made into cult films) are fascinating explorations of dreams, horror, and madness, which find their closest parallels in stories by Edgar Allen Poe.

**MacDonald, George*****Back of the North Wood***

A series of enchanted adventures in and out of the mind of a sick child, who finds a friend in the north wind and a land at her back.

**Morrow, James*****Towing Jehovah***

An aging sea captain is assigned the top-secret mission of towing God's corpse from the Atlantic to the North Pole. The meaning of faith becomes central through the various crew members' reactions to the mission.

**Sagan, Carl*****Contact***

Ellie Arroway discovers a signal from the star Vega. There are messages on several levels, one of which contains the design of a ship that moves faster than light.

**Tevis, Walter*****Mockingbird***

A brilliant and moving novel about our future in a world populated by zoos full of robotic animals, people on sedatives, a humanity unable to reproduce, a robot who longs to die, and a man who learns to read.

## APPENDIX

Alcott, Louisa May

***Little Men; Old Fashioned Girl***

Angelou, Maya

***All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes; Gather Together in My Name***

Austen, Jane\*

***Northanger Abbey; Persuasion; Mansfield Park***

Baldwin, James

***Notes of a Native Son; The Fire Next Time***

Bellow, Saul

***Seize the Day; Humboldt's Gift; Henderson: The Rain King; Ravelstein***

Bradbury, Ray

***Something Wicked This Way Comes; Dandelion Wine; Golden Apples of the Sun***

Bradley, Marion Zimmer

***Planet Savers; The Doors through Space; Night's Daughter***

Brontë, Charlotte

***The Professor; Shirley***

Burgess, Anthony

***Nothing Like the Sun; The Napoleon Symphony***

Calvino, Italo

***The Baron in the Trees***

Camus, Albert\*

***The Plague***

Capote, Truman

***Breakfast at Tiffany's; Other Voices, Other Rooms; In Cold Blood***

Chandler, Raymond

***The Lady in the Lake; The Long Goodbye; The Blue Dahlia***

Chekhov, Anton\*

***The Three Sisters; Uncle Vanya; The Sea Gull***

Christie, Agatha

***The Mousetrap; Dead Man's Folly; Murder on the Orient Express***

Clancy, Tom	<b><i>Clear and Present Danger; The Hunt for Red October; Patriot Games</i></b>
Clarke, Arthur C.	<b><i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i></b>
Collier, James	<b><i>Decision in Philadelphia; The Bloody Country; The Winter Hero</i></b>
Conrad, Joseph*	<b><i>The Heart of Darkness; The Secret Sharer</i></b>
Cooper, James F.	<b><i>The Deerslayer; The Pathfinder</i></b>
Creech, Sharon	<b><i>The Wanderer; Bloomability</i></b>
Crichton, Michael	<b><i>The Andromeda Strain; The Lost World; Sphere</i></b>
Dawkins, Richard	<b><i>Climbing Mount Improbable</i></b>
DeFoe, Daniel*	<b><i>Journal of the Plague Year; Moll Flanders</i></b>
Dickens, Charles *	<b><i>Dombey and Son; Little Dorritt; The Pickwick Papers</i></b>
Dillard, Annie	<b><i>An American Girlhood; Living by Fiction; The May Trees</i></b>
Doctorow, E.L.	<b><i>The Book of Daniel; Drinks Before Dinner; World's Fair</i></b>
Dreiser, Theodore *	<b><i>Sister Carrie</i></b>
Dumas, Alexandre	<b><i>The Three Musketeers; Castle Eppstein</i></b>
Eco, Umberto	<b><i>Travels in Hyperreality</i></b>
Eliot, George*	<b><i>Middlemarch</i></b>
Faulkner, William *	<b><i>Absalom! Absalom!; Go Down Moses; The Sound and the Fury</i></b>
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	<b><i>This Side of Paradise; Tender Is the Night; Babylon Revisited</i></b>
Forster, E.M.	<b><i>Howard's End; The Longest Journey</i></b>
Forsyth, Frederick	<b><i>The Dogs of War; The Fourth Protocol; The Odessa File</i></b>
Fowles, John	<b><i>The French Lieutenant's Woman; The Magus</i></b>
Francis, Dick	<b><i>Flying Finish; Slay Ride; Twice Shy</i></b>
Freud, Sigmund	<b><i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i></b>
Fuentes, Carlos	<b><i>The Hydra Head; The Old Gringo; Where the Air Is Clear</i></b>
Gilbreth, Frank B.	<b><i>Bells on their Toes</i></b>
Gould, Stephen J.	<b><i>Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes; The Mismeasure of Man</i></b>
Grisham, John	<b><i>The Client; The Pelican Brief; A Time to Kill</i></b>
Hammett, Dashiell	<b><i>The Glass Key; The Maltese Falcon; Red Harvest</i></b>
Hardy, Thomas*	<b><i>Jude the Obscure; The Mayor of Casterbridge; Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i></b>
Harris, Joanne	<b><i>Chocolat; Blackberry Wine</i></b>
Hawthorne, Nathaniel*	<b><i>The House of Seven Gables</i></b>
Heinlein, Robert	<b><i>Have Spacesuit, Will Travel; Job: A Comedy of Justice</i></b>
Hellman, Lillian	<b><i>Another Part of the Forest</i></b>
Hemingway, Ernest	<b><i>Snows of Kilimanjaro; The Sun Also Rises; In Our Time; A Moveable Feast</i></b>
Hesse, Hermann	<b><i>Narcissus and Goldmund; Siddhartha; Steppenwolf</i></b>
Hinton, S.E.	<b><i>The Outsiders; Rumblefish; Tex</i></b>
Hosseini, Khaled	<b><i>The Kite Runner</i></b>

Hunt, Irene	<i>Up a Road Slowly</i>
Ibsen, Henrik*	<i>Ghosts; Hedda Gabler; The Wild Duck</i>
Irving, John	<i>The World According to Garp; Hotel New Hampshire</i>
Joyce, James	<i>Finnegan's Wake; Ulysses</i>
Kesey, Ken	<i>Sometimes a Great Notion</i>
King, Stephen	<i>Christine; The Gunslinger; The Shining</i>
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>The Man Who Would Be King; Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and Other Stories</i>
Kozol, Jonathan	<i>Rachael and Her Children; Savage Inequalities</i>
Kirkwood, James	<i>P.S. Your Cat Is Dead; Some Kind of Here</i>
Lawrence, D.H.*	<i>Lady Chatterley's Lover; The Captain's Doll; Sea and Sardinia</i>
L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>The Arm of the Starfish; Meet the Austins; Many Waters; The Small Rain</i>
Lewis, Sinclair	<i>Dodsworth; Elmer Gantry; Main Street</i>
London, Jack	<i>Sea Wolf; White Fang</i>
MacDonald, John D.	<i>Death Trap; Murder in the Wind; Pale Gray for Guilt</i>
MacInnes, Helen	<i>Prelude to Terror; Ride a Pale Horse; The Salzburg Connection</i>
McCarthy, Cormac	<i>All the Pretty Horses</i>
McCullers, Carson	<i>The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter; A Member of the Wedding</i>
McMurtry, Larry	<i>Lonesome Dove; Streets of Laredo</i>
Malamud, Bernard	<i>The Assistant; The Natural</i>
Mamet, David	<i>American Buffalo; House of Games</i>
Marlowe, Christopher*	<i>The Jew of Malta; Tamburlaine the Great</i>
Massie, Robert	<i>Peter the Great</i>
Maugham, W. Somerset	<i>Collected Short Stories; The Moon and Sixpence</i>
Melville, Herman*	<i>Billy Budd; The Confidence Man; Pierre</i>
Montgomery, Lucy	<i>Anne of the Island; Anne of Windy Poplars; Anne's House of Dreams</i>
Morrison, Toni	<i>Tar Baby; Jazz</i>
Nabokov, Vladimir	<i>Speak, Memory</i>
O'Neill, Eugene	<i>Ah, Wilderness!; Long Day's Journey into Night; Mourning Becomes Electra</i>
Orwell, George	<i>Animal Farm; Homage to Catalonia</i>
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom</i>
Paton, Alan	<i>Ah, But Your Land Is Beautiful; Too Late the Phalarope</i>
Paulsen, Gary	<i>The Monument</i>
Philbrick, Nathaniel	<i>The Mayflower</i>
Plato	<i>The Apology; Crito</i>
Potok, Chaim	<i>The Chosen; The Promise</i>
Puig, Manuel	<i>Betrayed by Rita Hayworth</i>
Pullman, Philip	<i>The Amber Spyglass; The Subtle Knife</i>

Rand, Ayn	<b><i>Atlas Shrugged</i></b>
Red Shirt, Delphine	<b><i>Turtle Lung Woman's Granddaughter</i></b>
Rowling, J.K.	<b><i>Harry Potter series</i></b>
Rusdie, Salman	<b><i>Fury; Midnight's Children</i></b>
Sagan, Carl	<b><i>Cosmos; The Dragons of Edens</i></b>
Saroyan, William	<b><i>My Name Is Aram</i></b>
Sayers, Dorothy	<b><i>Busman's Honeymoon; Murder Must Advertise; The Nine Tailors</i></b>
Shakespeare, William*	<b><i>King Lear; Much Ado about Nothing; Richard III</i></b>
Shaw, G. Bernard*	<b><i>Arms and the Man; Major Barbara; Man and Superman; Pygmalion</i></b>
Sheldon, Sidney	<b><i>Master of the Game; The Naked Face; Windmills of the Gods</i></b>
Shute, Nevil	<b><i>Beyond the Black Stump; In the Wet; No Highway</i></b>
Singer, Isaac Bashevis	<b><i>Gimpel the Foo and Other Stories!; Enemies: A Love Story</i></b>
Solzhenitsyn, A.*	<b><i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich; The Gulag Archipelago</i></b>
Steinbeck, John	<b><i>East of Eden; Travels with Charlie</i></b>
Stone, Irving	<b><i>The Greek Treasure; Lust for Life: A Novel about Van Gogh</i></b>
Tey, Josephine	<b><i>Miss Pim Disposes</i></b>
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<b><i>The Fellowship of the Ring; The Two Towers; The Return of the King</i></b>
Tolstoy, Leo*	<b><i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich; War and Peace</i></b>
Tuchman, Barbara	<b><i>Bible and Sword; The Guns of August; The Proud Tower</i></b>
Twain, Mark*	<b><i>Collected Short Stories; Innocents Abroad; Life on the Mississippi</i></b>
Tyler, Anne	<b><i>Breathing Lessons; The Accidental Tourist</i></b>
Uris, Leon	<b><i>Armageddon; Battle Cry; Q.B. VII</i></b>
Verne, Jules	<b><i>Around the World in Eighty Days; The Mysterious Island</i></b>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<b><i>Cat's Cradle; Deadeye Dick; God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater: or Pearls Before Swine</i></b>
Wells, H.G.	<b><i>The First Men in the Moon; The Invisible Man; War of the Worlds</i></b>
Wharton, Edith	<b><i>The Age of Innocence; Custom of the Country</i></b>
White, T.H.	<b><i>The Sword in the Stone</i></b>
Wiesel, Elie	<b><i>The Accident; Dawn</i></b>
Wilde, Oscar	<b><i>Lady Windermere's Fan; The Picture of Dorian Gray</i></b>
Williams, Tennessee	<b><i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof; The Glass Menagerie; The Rose Tattoo</i></b>
Wodehouse, P.G.	<b><i>The Girl in Blue; The Inimitable Jeeves; Jeeves and the Tie That Binds</i></b>
Wolfe, Thomas	<b><i>Of Time and the River; You Can't Go Home Again</i></b>
Wolfe, Tom	<b><i>Radical Chic; The Right Stuff</i></b>
Woolf, Virginia*	<b><i>Jacob's Room; Orlando; To the Lighthouse; Mrs. Dalloway</i></b>
Wouk, Herman	<b><i>Marjorie Morningstar; War and Remembrance</i></b>
Wright, Richard	<b><i>The Outsider</i></b>

“The best moments in reading are when you come across something—a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things—which you had thought special and particular to you. And now, here it is, set down by someone else.... And it is as if a hand has come out, and taken yours.”

**Alan Bennett, *The History Boys***

It is well to read everything of something, and something of everything.

**Lord Henry P. Brougham**

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

**Groucho Marx**

