Hopkins School
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Hopkins Guide to Summer Reading 2017
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.

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.

- 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.
- Because some books navigate emotionally turbulent issues, parents may wish to read alongside their child.

The Summer Reading Committee

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REQUIRED BOOKS BY GRADE

REQUIRED READING FOR ENGLISH

7th  Maile Meloy  The Apothecary
8th  Harper Lee  To Kill A Mockingbird
9th  Sue Monk Kidd  The Secret Life of Bees
10th David Mitchell  Black Swan Green
11th Stephen King  On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft
12th Emily St. John Mandel  Station Eleven

REQUIRED READING FOR CLASSICS

Latin III:
Imperium by Robert Harris

Greek IV:
Iliad by Homer, Richmond Lattimore translation

REQUIRED READING FOR HISTORY

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):
The Great Train Robbery by Michael Crichton

Atlantic Communities III (Grade 11):
Hiroshima by John Hersey

AP European:
The Guns of August by Barbara Tuchman

AP US History:
Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis

Military History:
War by Sebastian Junger
LIST FOR GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

GENERAL FICTION

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.

Alexie, Sherman  
*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
Winner of the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. A decision to leave the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend the local white high school alters Junior’s life in many ways. His experience is both hilarious and heartbreaking.

Anderson, Laurie Halse  
*Wintergirls*
The diary of anorexic teenager Lia, which chronicles her life after the death of also anorexic best friend, and how Lia must decide whether to succumb to her now uncontrollable eating-disorder and self hate, or ask for help and fight to live.

Asher, Jay  
*13 Reasons Why*
Clay Jensen receives a box of audio tapes from Hannah Baker, a classmate who committed suicide a few months earlier. Clay listens to the tapes and discovers the reasons for the young girl’s suicide.

Balliett, Blue  
*The Calder Game*
Calder Pillay and his friends travel to England where they find adventure and an art mystery.

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 while waiting tables.

Berry, Julie  
*All the Truth That’s In Me*
Judith and her best friend disappeared from Roswell Station; two years later only Judith returned. Vaguely set in colonial America, Judith must learn to find her voice if she wants to save the people she loves.

Buck, Pearl S.  
*The Good Earth*
The moving story of a poor peasant-farmer, Wang Lung and his selfless wife, O-Lan who live during the reign of the last emperor. Through hard work and sacrifice, Wang manages to acquire property and prosperity only to find that his sons don’t share his veneration for the land.

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 and family reactions.

Cameron, Bruce  
*A Dog’s Purpose*
This touching book chronicles a dog's journey through several lives via reincarnation, and how he looks for his purpose through each life.
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.

Cremer, Andrea & Levithan, David
Invisibility
Stephen has been invisible for practically his entire life because of a family curse. When Elizabeth moves into a nearby apartment, he is astonished that she can see him, and the two set out to destroy the curse.

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

Eager, Edward
Half Magic
Four children find a coin that grants wishes; however, it only partially grants their wishes which causes numerous problems for the children.

George, Jean Craighead
Julie of the Wolves
Julie runs away from her Eskimo village and is slowly accepted by a pack of wolves.

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.

Heyer, Georgette
Arabella
A Minister’s daughter, Arabella, captivates London society when she meets an intriguing beau.

Holm, Jennifer L
Penny from Heaven
After an accident that puts her in the hospital for several weeks, Penny learns the truth about her father, his death, and how it tore apart the two halves of her family.

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.

Lockhart, E. The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks
Lockhart’s book is a delightful exposé of private schools, privileged social castes, and the weird relationships between best friends and their respective girl and boy friends.

London, Jack
Call of the Wild
Set in Alaska in 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.

Lunn, Janet
The Root Cellar
Sent to live with distant relatives on a farm in Canada, twelve year old Rose ventures into her aunt’s root cellar and finds herself making friends with people who lived on the farm more than a century earlier.

Martin, Ann M.
Better to Wish: Family Tree #1
Growing up in the 1930s, Abby Nichols faces a changing family, new expectations, and altered dreams.
Merrill, Jean  
**The Pushcart War**  
The pushcart peddlers organize to keep the trucks from replacing them in an uproarious battle in the streets of New York.

Meyer, Marissa  
**The Lunar Chronicles**  
Set in a future where humanity inhabits both the earth and the moon, this series follows the journey of cyborg mechanic Cinder and the many shocking secrets she uncovers about her past, and connection to the Lunar people.

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.

Morpurgo, Michael  
**Kensuke's Kingdom**  
When Michael falls from his houseboat, he washes ashore on an island where he learns to survive with the help of a new friend.

Mulligan, Andy  
**Trash**  
When Raphael Fernandez finds a leather bag containing a map, a wallet, and a key in the monstrous dump called Behala where he lives, he is ecstatic over the 1,100 pesos inside but has no idea of the mystery he is about to encounter or the repercussions when he attempts to solve it.

Oates, Joyce Carol  
**Two Or Three Things I Forgot To Tell You**  
Three friends experience their senior year together at Quaker Heights Day School in affluent New Jersey. Despite their lives of privilege, each girl has a secret she doesn’t want to share with the others.

O'Dell, Scott  
**Island of the Blue Dolphins**  
Native American girl Karana is left on an island off the coast of California, where she lives for many years learning to survive on her own.

Orwell, George  
**Animal Farm**  
A downtrodden group of over-worked, mistreated animals are determined to create a utopian farm where justice and equality applies to all animals, large and small.

Palacio, R.J.  
**Wonder**  
August Pullman is a boy who has been homeschooled for his entire life due to extreme facial deformities. Wonder tells the story of August’s difficult, but successful, first year in school.

Pratchett, Terry  
**Dodger**  
Although he is now seventeen, Dodger is still a street urchin who lives in 19th century London where he meets mad barber Sweeney Todd, famous writer Charles Dickens, and even the calculating politician Benjamin Disraeli! Pratchett blends history and fantasy with adventure and mystery.

Riggs, Ransom  
**Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**  
Jacob Portman goes to Wales to investigate his grandfather’s death, and encounters an orphanage with 'peculiar children', who help him discover his past.

Rosoff, Meg  
**How I Live Now**  
A spirited and candid story of war, love, hunger, and the absence of adult supervision, told by an outspoken teenage girl living with her English cousins.

Ryan, Pam Munoz  
**Becoming Naomi Leon**  
Naomi discovers her heritage and her identity when her absent mother reappears.

Ryan, Pam Munoz  
**Echo**  
In the past, a mouth harp helped three sisters break free from a curse. Decades later, the harmonica ties together a cast of 20th century characters facing some of the darkest events in human history.
Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de  
*The Little Prince*

The beautiful and philosophical story of a pilot stranded in the Sahara desert and the young Prince he meets there.

Schmidt, Gary D.  
*The Wednesday Wars*

The story of a boy growing up in 1967 who is lead into maturity by his strict teacher, Ms. Baker, and his overbearing father.

Sedgewick, Marcus  
*Revolver*

*Revolver* is packed with suspense and questions about morality. It begins in 1010 outside Giron, a small community located at 68 Latitude North in the Arctic wilderness, where the protagonist, 14-year-old Sig, lives with his older sister, Anna, his stepmother, Nadya, and his father, Einar. They are part of a rag-tag group lured to Alaska by dreams of gold.

Selznick, Brian  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is the story of a Parisian orphan, clock keeper and thief, who lives within the walls of a busy Paris train station. His world interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl, and a bitter old man, and as he struggles to preserve his secrets, he finds himself uncovering mysteries of the past.

Sepetys, Ruta  
*Between Shades of Gray*

Lina Vilkas, along with her family, is abducted from her home in Lithuania by Soviet Officers. She must struggle to stay alive and protect her family through her perilous journey from concentration camp to concentration camp.

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*.

Spinelli, Jerry  
*Stargirl*

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at his high school: don’t stand out. New student Stargirl does not follow this rule. Somewhere between her arrival and when she starts to be shunned for her individuality, Leo realizes he is in love with her.

Spyri, Johanna  
*Heidi*

Orphaned Heidi lives with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps, where she brings wealthy invalid Klara.

St. John, Lauren  
*The White Giraffe*

Martine Allen adjusts to her new life on an African nature reserve with help from a magical giraffe.

Staples, Suzanne  
*Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*

Shabanu is the second daughter in a family without sons; she lives in the desert in Pakistan. She relishes the freedom from "women's work", a freedom forbidden to most Muslim girls of Shabanu's time—until her parents decide their daughter's expectations may lead to trouble.

Stevenson, Robert L.  
*Treasure Island*

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

Stewart, Trenton Lee  
*The Mysterious Benedict Society*

After seeing an ad in a local newspaper and being put through dozens of peculiar tests, four children are welcomed into a secret mission that only the most intelligent and creative children could ever hope to complete.
Streatfield, Noel  
*Thursday’s Child*
In turn-of-the-century England, Margaret Thursday escapes from an orphanage with two other children to work as a “legger” on the canals and begin an acting career.

Taylor, Mildred D.  
*Let the Circle Be Unbroken*
Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.

Traven, B.  
*Treasure of the Sierra Madre*
Three misfits search for gold in the wilds of Mexico as they face the horrors of their own greed.

Vanderpool, Clare  
*Moon over Manifest*
Twelve-year-old Abilene goes to live in the town of Manifest with her father’s friend, Shady, during the Great Depression, where she learns about the town’s history and solves an old mystery.

Weil, Silvie  
*My Guardian Angel*
Elvina, granddaughter of the great rabbi Rashi, must decide if she will save the life of a young, wounded Crusader.

Wein, Elizabeth  
*Code Name Verity*
In Nazi Germany after a spy plane crashes, one of the teen spies survives and has to choose between putting her mission in jeopardy and being brutally killed.

West, Jessamyn  
*Cress Delahanty*
A young girl’s growing up between the ages of twelve and sixteen on a ranch in southern California.

Westerfeld, Scott  
*Leviathan*
Aleksandar Ferdinand is prince of the steampunk Austro-Hungarian Empire. Meanwhile, Deryn dreams of joining the British Air Service and serving on one of the great air beasts. Their stories cross paths during World War I, where machinery is pitted against biological machines in the great war.

Westerfeld, Scott  
*The Uglies*
Scott Westerfeld tells the story of Tally Youngblood, a girl living in a dystopian world where everyone undergoes extreme cosmetic surgery in order to become “Pretty”.

Winthrop, Elizabeth Hartley  
*December*
Eleven year old Isabelle has not spoken for nearly a year. Distraught and confused by their daughter’s unbreakable silence, her family must confront the possibility that she may remain locked in silence forever.

Yang, Gene Luen  
*American Born Chinese*
Jin Wang starts at a new school where he’s the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn’t want to be associated with him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he’s in love with an all-American girl.

Zusak, Markus  
*I am the Messenger*
When underage taxi driver Ed Kennedy becomes the recipient of mysterious playing cards, he is thrust into missions, sometimes quirky, other times deadly, but always revealing. The question remains: who is sending the cards?
HISTORICAL FICTION

al-Shaykh, Hanan  
One Thousand and One Nights  
A collection of Western and South Asian stories and folktales about ruler Shahryar and his wife, Scheherazade, all with different frames. These include the well-known "Aladdin’s Wonderful Lamp," “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves,” and “The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor.”

Anderson, Laurie Halse  
Chains (The Seeds of America trilogy)  
Thirteen-year-old Isabel and her sister Ruth endeavor to break free of their bondage during the Revolutionary War. Read Chains or any of the books in the Seeds of America trilogy.

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.

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. The writing of Robert Harris is fresh, witty, and engaging.

Kelly, Jacqueline  
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate  
Calpurnia Tate is a young girl from Texas who is facing adulthood reluctantly. Soon she discovers an interest in natural sciences which is nurtured by her intimidating grandfather while being encouraged to be lady-like by her mother.

Meyer, Carolyn  
In Mozart’s Shadow  
Everyone knows the story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but not much is known of his older sister Maria Anna, nicknamed Nannerl.

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 troupe of actors led 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

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 on 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 twentieth 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 brings the power of language to a deaf and mute child named 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 can be measured by enthusiastic endeavor rather than productivity.

McCormick, Patricia

*Sold*
A story in verse of thirteen year-old Lakshmi, a typical young girl in Nepal until her family loses everything to the monsoon. When her father solves the family's dilemma by unwittingly selling Lakshmi into prostitution, she finds herself living in a Calcutta brothel.

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.

Nelson, Marilyn

*Carver: A Life in Poems*
Nelson’s collection of poems offers readers a compelling, lyrical account of the life of revered African-American botanist and inventor.

Woodson, Jacqueline

*Brown Girl Dreaming*
A story in verse, Woodson recountes her childhood experience growing up in South Carolina and New York during the Civil Rights Movement.

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES AND MEMOIRS

Bitton-Jackson, Livia

*I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*
13-year-old Elli Friedmann’s memoir recalls her struggle to survive in Nazi-occupied Hungary.

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, and where cruel nuns really do cage the animals at night.
Dahl, Roald *Boy: Tales of Childhood*
An autobiography of Roald Dahl.

Durrell, Gerald *My Family and Other Animals*
Why stay in dreary England when you can move to the island of Corfu? Follow the adventures of the Durrell family as they upend their life to start over in Greece.

Hickam, Homer *October Sky*
Hickam’s memoir retells the story of an unlikely group of boys who prove that the sky really is the limit. Originally published as *Rocket Boys*.

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.

Red Shirt, Delphine *Bead on an Anthill*
Growing up without books on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Nebraska, Delphine Red Shirt depends on the teaching of her friends and family on the reservation.

**MYSTERY**

Bacigalupi, Paolo *Ship Breaker*
A post-apocalyptic story set on the Gulf Coast and at a fictional place called Orleans that divided the land into waterways and different levels of destruction caused by greed and mismanagement.

Bradley, Alan *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*
Flavia de Luce is a typical 11-year-old except for the fact that she is an amateur chemist who specializes in poison. In this novel she uses her knowledge of crime to single-handedly solve murders.

Christie, Agatha *And Then There Were None*
Tensions mount as ten guests are gradually polished off while guests of a mysterious host on Devil’s Island.

Christie, Agatha *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*
When Mrs. Ferrars commits suicide and affluent Roger Ackroyd is found dead within the span of a few days, the small town of King’s Abbot become suspicious and fearful. Despite his recent retirement, Poirot returns to solve the case.

Christie, Agatha *Murder on the Orient Express*
Hercule Poirot, at the request of his friend M. Bouc, solves the murder of Mr. Ratchett en route to England on the Orient Express. The case is inextricably bound to the murder of Daisy Armstrong. Suspense is heightened when Poirot and the murderer are confined on the train, which has halted in the blizzard.

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.)

**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 and the only person, it seems, who can save it from destruction.

Adams, Richard *Watership Down*
A magical and suspenseful story 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.

Barron, T.A.  
*The Lost Years of Merlin*  
T.A. Barron writes the story of his childhood. A new look at a side of Merlin rarely seen.

Black, Holly  
*Doll Bones*  
Three friends go on a journey to return a haunted doll to her grave so she can rest in peace, despite the possibility that it is all a game.

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 great names in science fiction about a boy in training to lead Earth in an electronic war against an alien threat.

Clare, Cassandra  
*City of Bones*  
Clary Fray, a fifteen year old girl, is dragged into the world of the supernatural after witnessing a murder in a local night club.

Colfer, Eoin  
*Artemis Fowl*  
A troubled adolescent genius abducts a fairy, leading to a confrontation between multiple races.

Collins, Suzanne  
*The Hunger Games*  
In a post-apocalyptic world, the ruthless government punishes its citizens by pitting teenagers against each other in a televised, Survivor-like fight to the death.

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.

Croggon, Alison  
*The Naming (The Pellinor Series)*  
Maerad, a slave in a harsh world, has a secret power that gives her the ability to destroy or save the world. She embarks on a journey to combat an otherworldly power.

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 deliver the conch back to its rightful home.

DuPrau, Jeanne  
*The City of Ember*  
Two teens must race to find a way to save their community, an underground city slowly decaying and running out of supplies and electricity.

Farmer, Nancy  
*The House of the Scorpion*  
Set in a dystopian future when drug lords rule the border between the United States and Mexico, a young clone discovers the truth about who he was cloned from and what that entails.

Funke, Cornelia  
*Inkdeath*  
Set in a universe where words alter reality, this tale is part coming-of-age and part adventure as Meggie and Mo face the evil InkWorld.
Funke, Carlo  
*The Thief Lord*  
In the magical underworld of Venice, runaway orphans Prosper and Bo fall under the protection of a mysterious thirteen-year-old who calls himself the Thief Lord.

Furlong, Monica  
*The Wise Child*  
In a pagan world a young girl is taken in by a sorcerer and healer known as Juniper. Wise Child must learn to control her power in a world that does not accept magic.

Gaiman, Neil  
*Neverwhere*  
Richard Mayhew, through one act of kindness, is exiled from London Above and must navigate the dark and dangerous London Below.

Goldman, William  
*The Princess Bride*  
The beautiful Buttercup and the dashing farm boy Wesley face pirates, swordfights, giants and temporary resurrection. A comedic, action-packed fairy-tale.

Goodkind, Terry  
*Wizard's First Rule*  
Richard has been raised in a small village and is oblivious to the magical powers that surround him. However, his father's murder and the appearance of a strange woman signal a dramatic change that his life is about to undergo.

Hale, Sharon  
*The Darkest Minds*  
After a plague inexplicably wipes out the child population of America, only 2% are left – with strange mutations. They are placed in concentration camps. To survive, Ruby must carve a space for herself in a crumbling dystopian America.

Hale, Shannon  
*The Goose Girl*  
Princess Isi travels to the nearby kingdom of Bayern, endures a mutiny and becomes a goose keeper.

Hendrix, Grady  
*Horrorstör*  
When things go missing in an Ikea-like store in Cleveland, Ohio, employees work to figure out what is going on in this hilarious modern-day horror house.

Jones, Diana Wynne  
*Howl's Moving Castle*  
Sophie, a girl turned into an old lady by a jealous witch, must leave home 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 Chronicles of Narnia*  
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 fights the noble lion Aslan.

Lore, Pittacus  
*The Lorien Legacies Series*  
A series of John Smith, an alien disguised as a teenager who attempts to save the human race by uniting with his kinsmen, the other members of his alien race on earth.

Lowry, Lois  
*The Giver*  
Jonas lives in a perfect world, without hunger or overpopulation or violence, but when he's assigned the unique role of Receiver of Memories he begins to understand the things that were sacrificed for his perfect world.
**Lu, Marie**  
*Legend*

*Legend* follows the converging paths of Day, the Republic's most wanted criminal, and June, a student at the military academy. When June is assigned to track down Day, she discovers something shocking about the government.

**McKinney, Robin**  
*The Blue Sword*

Harry, an orphan, is kidnapped by the hill-folk due to her strong magical power. She struggles to understand her connection to the hill-folk and her visions as she prepares to defend the hill-folk from the demonic Northerners.

**Moers, Walter**  
*The 13½ Lives of Captain Bluebear*

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

**Patterson, James**  
*Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*

An exciting page-turner about a group of kids – except that these kids have 2% avian DNA, bird wings, and special powers after having been test subjects in an evil lab.

**Pierce, Tamora**  
*Alanna: The First Adventure*

The daughter of a noble lord, Alanna of Trebond, disguises herself as her twin brother and travels to the Palace to become a knight, befriending both the Crown Prince and the King of Thieves while keeping her true identity a secret.

**Pierce, Tamora**  
*Trickster's Choice*

A spymaster's daughter is kidnapped by pirates and brought as a slave to a land oppressed by cruel conquerors. As she grows closer to the rebel movement, she learns that she is a small piece in a game played by gods and kings.

**Pratchett, Terry**  
*Nation*

*Nation* is the adventure of all adventures—like the television show *Lost*, except set several hundred years earlier. The setting resembles a South Pacific island that has suffered a tsunami; Mau is on his solo-initiation trip at sea when the wave strikes.

**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**  
*His Dark Materials Trilogy*

In his controversial, Milton-inspired trilogy, Philip Pullman weaves a thrilling and intricate tale that examines the true nature of religion and fate.

**Rowling, J.K.**  
*The Harry Potter Series*

Read any Harry Potter book that you haven’t already read.

**Smith, Sherwood**  
*Crown Duel*

Countess Meliara leads a group of rebels against the tyrannical King Galdran, later allying with an enigmatic marquis who wishes to join her cause.

**Westerfield, Scott**  
*Peeps (A Vampire Story)*

“Peeps” is slang for people who are “parasite positive”, a euphemism for vampires. Readers quickly learn that there are many kinds of parasites and many ways people can become infected.

**SHORT STORIES AND ESSAYS**

**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.
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.

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.

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!"
LIST FOR GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE

GENERAL FICTION

Abbey, Edward
The Monkey Wrench Gang
The humorous story of four eccentric and radical characters who struggle to fight commercial expansion in Utah during the 1970's and its effects on the environment.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi
Americanah

Adiga, Aravind
The White Tiger
In this inventive, epistolary novel, Balram Halwai tells his life story as a servant, philosopher, murderer, and entrepreneur, taking the reader deep into the hidden underbelly of India.

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.

Allende, Isabel
The House of the Spirits
A cousin of assassinated Chilean president Salvadore Allende, Isabel 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.

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 face their new, unfortunate circumstances after moving 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." (see also The New York Trilogy.)

Backman, Fredrik
A Man Called Ove
Ove is a man with little tolerance for annoyance in a world full of it. When a happy couple and their cheerful daughters move in next door, through self-discovery and friendship, the solitary man is transformed.
Baldwin, James  
*Go Tell it on the Mountain*
With heavy allusions to the Bible, this semi-autobiographical classic tells the story of a young boy in a predominantly black church in Harlem in 1935.

Barbery, Muriel  
*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*
Renee is short, fat, and works as a concierge; she’s also a secret autodidact with amazing mental abilities. Paloma is a twelve-year-old suicidal genius whose wit is unappreciated by her drug-addicted mother and sister. The two misunderstood outcasts search for truth in their lonely lives.

Barnes, Julian  
*The Sense of an Ending*
Tony Webster has led a calm life, or so he thinks. When a recent event forces Tony to revisit memories of his school years, and his friendship with Adrian Finn, he must face the imperfections of memory.

Barry, Dave & Pearson, Ridley  
*Peter and the Starcatchers*
This imaginative novel gives the backstory of Peter Pan before J.M. Barrie’s *Peter and Wendy*. Peter, his friends and fellow orphans help his mysterious new friend Molly protect a valuable and magical treasure from pirates, thieves, crocodiles, mermaids, and savages on this magical adventure set on the high seas and Mollusk Island.

Block, Francesca Lia  
*Echo*
This novella follows the struggles and life of Echo, a young female artist who must overcome her inner demons and the unseen evils of Los Angeles to find herself and love, but has trouble distinguishing between fantasy and reality.

Bradley, Alan  
*As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust*
After a young girl's mother is killed, she is sent off to a mysterious boarding school. She joins a secret organization and soon investigations into missing persons begin.

Brown, Dan  
*The Da Vinci Code*
The *Da Vinci Code* follows Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveau after her grandfather is murdered in the Louvre Museum.

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.

Byatt, A.S.  
Possession
A modern masterpiece about two literary professors who scour the English countryside to prove a secret affair between two 19th century poets.

Calvino, Italo  
*If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler*
A complex and convoluted search for the conclusion of a story, resulting only in the beginnings of more than ten narratives, each with its own style, characters, and tone.

Camus, Albert (trans. Matthew Ward)  
*The Stranger*
Meursault, an alienated anti-hero, faces his destiny. (Students who have completed French III may read this text in the original.)

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.

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 and to America and then back to France, following the epic misadventures of the casually nihilistic antihero Bardamu.

Chbosky, Stephen  
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*
This novel examines the life of a boy as he enters high school. 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 human thought and interaction.

Cleave, Chris  
*Little Bee (or The Other Hand)*
A dual narrative tells the story of a Nigerian asylum-seeker and a British magazine editor, who first meet during the oil dispute at the Niger delta and reunite years later in England.

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.

Conroy, Pat  
*The Prince of Tides*
This novel tells the story of the traumatic events that shaped the former football player Tom Wingo’s relationship with his family, especially his older brother Luke and sister Savannah.

Courtenay, Bryce  
*The Power of One*
Peekay, a five year old English boy living in South Africa, is bullied by an older boy at boarding school. On a train ride to Barberton, Peekay meets a professional boxer, who inspires him to fight back.

Cunningham, Michael  
*Specimen Days*
Each section of this bold novel takes place in a very different time and place with a similar set of characters, all of whom are profoundly affected by the poetry of Walt Whitman.

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.

DeFoe, Daniel  
*Robinson Crusoe*
The 19th century story of a shipwrecked Englishman who lives alone for twenty-eight years on a deserted island. An original version of *Castaway*.

DeLillo, Don  
*End Zone*
The language of end zones—the terminology of football and nuclear war become interchangeable—and later distorted as one collegiate year concludes. With humor and concern, Don DeLillo links football and war in this original and thought-provoking novel.

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.

DeWoskin, Rachel  
*Big Girl Small*
An irresistible heroine rises above misfortune with grit and grace in this scathingly funny book about dreams and reality. Judy Lohden is your above-average sixteen-year-old with a voice that can shake an auditorium, so why is this promising star hiding out in a seedy motel on the edge of town?
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.

Doer, Anthony  
*All the Light We Cannot See*
A blind girl and her father try to escape Nazi Germany while an orphan boy and his sister work to build up a resistance by using an intricate radio system.

Donoghue, Emma  
*Room*
The entire world of a 5-year old boy is the 11-by-11-foot room in which his mother is being held against her will.

Downham, Jenny  
*Before I Die*
Tessa Scott is sixteen and terminally ill. Written in magic marker on the wall above her bed is a list of things she wants to do before she dies. Startlingly honest, *Before I Die* is the story of a girl who reclaims her life before her disease claims her.

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.

Dumas, Alexandre  
*The Count of Monte Cristo*
After being falsely accused and jailed for life, Dantes gets revenge in the old-fashioned, swashbuckling way, picking off his enemies after he miraculously escapes imprisonment.

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.

Egan, Jennifer  
*A Visit from the Goon Squad*
A careful arrangement of dovetailing stories that feature appearances and reappearances of interconnecting characters. Music pulses on every page as Egan’s characters determine if “time’s a goon”.

Eggers, Dave  
*The Circle*
What happens when tech companies take over all aspects of privacy? A new employee at a tech company meant to be a parody of Google explores this question and others about privacy, security and what it means to have too little of either.

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*
This novel explores race, ideology, and the intermixing of both in the early twentieth century. The narrator, feeling marginalized by society, tells the reader the story of the injustices he has faced being a black man in the South.

Englander, Nathan  
*The Ministry of Special Cases*
The long-awaited first novel by 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  
*Plague of Doves*
The white town of Pluto, North Dakota and the nearby Ojibwe reservation share a troubled history that is gradually revealed through generational narration.
Eugenides, Jeffrey  
*The Marriage Plot*

Madeleine Hanna is an English major with plenty of choices to make. The pressing matter at hand? Her love life. There’s Mitchell, the friend who thinks she’s his soulmate, and Leonard, the brilliant but brooding man she loves.

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  
*Tender Is The Night*

While vacationing with her mother on the French Rivera, vivacious film star Rosemary Hoyt meets Dick and Nicole Diver, a charming and sophisticated couple who move in elite social circles. However, the Divers’ perfect life is not as perfect as it appears from the outside: its glamor masks a reality full of emotional turmoil, illicit affairs, and violence.

Ferrante, Elena  
*My Brilliant Friend*

From one of Italy’s most famous and current authors comes the story of two friends growing up in the outskirts of Naples, Elena and Lila. Their paths converge and diverge throughout their lives, but through it all they remain friends.

Flaubert, Gustave  
*Madame Bovary*

A beautifully written novel featuring an ardently romantic heroine. (Advanced French students might read the novel in French.)

Ford, Jamie  
*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

A bittersweet tale of love and loyalty set against the backdrop of World War II Seattle.

Forman, Gayle  
*If I Stay*

A beautiful novel about the importance of family and friends. Simultaneously tragic and hopeful, Forman tells a romantic, and ultimately uplifting story about memories, music, loving, living, and dying.

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.

Fountain, Ben  
*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*

The Bravo Squad makes a stop at Texas Stadium during a media-intensive tour following the soldiers’ service in Iraq. Fountain’s debut is a biting satire set in Texas during America’s war in Iraq.

Franzen, Jonathan  
*Purity*

Purity refers to a lot of things in Franzen’s most recent work. For one, it is the name of the title character who begins the story squatting with anarchists in Oakland. Surrounding Purity is a world of vividly original characters that intersect throughout Franzen’s layered story.

Frazier, Charles  
*Cold Mountain*

The epic tale of a wounded Civil War soldier who walks away from the battlefield and home to his sweetheart in the NC mountains.

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.

Gaddis, William  
*J R*

Consisting almost entirely of tag-less dialogue, subordinating grammar and syntax to the dips and flows of natural speech, and interspersing the oppressively banal refrains of life with the achingly sublime thrills of music and love, *J R* chronicles the struggles of various people and families as they swirl about the title character.
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 upside down in this version, narrated by the villainous monster of the original.

Genova, Lisa  
*Still Alice*

After a successful Harvard professor encounters early onset Alzheimer’s, she struggles to maintain her sense of self by documenting everything that is happening to her.

Ghosh, Amitav  
*Sea of Poppies*

Deeti is a model Hindu woman, but she has a secret that even she does not know. Upon discovering the life destroying fact, she avoids the fate set for her, sati (death on her husband’s funeral pyre), and escapes the oppressive system in which she is trapped.

Gibbons, Kaye  
*Charms For The Easy Life*

A family of women without men live offbeat lives in the North Carolina backwoods. Sophia, Margaret, and Charlie Kate possess powerful charms to dispel loneliness, despair, and misery.

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.

Greene, 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 jealousy two years later, and Bendix hires a private detective to follow Sarah. Slowly his love for her turns into an obsession.

Groff, Lauren  
*Fates and Furies*

Groff upends the notion that honesty and communication are the keys to a good marriage. Presented over the course of twenty-four years, Lotto and Mathilde’s marriage survives because of what is left unsaid.

Guterson, David  
*Snow Falling on Cedars*

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

Haddon, Mark  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

The touching story of Christopher John Francis Boone, a 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.

Harbach, Chad  
*The Art of Fielding*

College baseball star Henry Skrimshander is destined for greatness until a routine throw goes disastrously off course. In the aftermath of his error, the fates of five people are upended. Henry’s fight against self-doubt threatens to ruin his future.

Harding, Paul  
*Tinkers*

Paul Harding is known for his upfront portraits of family life in New England towns, and in Tinkers, he keeps with his image. This novel flows smoothly from the last thoughts of a man as he lies on his deathbed, remembering his younger days spent with his father, a tinker.
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.

Harkaway, Nick  
*Tigerman*
Sergeant Lester Ferris of the British Army is hoping to retire but is drawn into the world of shady business on the island of Mancreau and befriends a young street kid in the process.

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.

Hemingway, Ernest  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls*
Set during the Spanish Civil War, a story of danger, love, and the quest for meaning, told through the eyes of an American volunteer.

Hesse, Hermann  
*Siddhartha*
The story of a young Indian boy named Siddhartha whose spiritual quest occurs during the time of Buddha.

Hesse, Hermann  
*Steppenwolf*
A Jungian exploration of the many different, dueling aspects of man.

Hugo, Victor  
*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
The doomed love story of Quasimodo, the hunchback of Notre Dame, and the gypsy Esmeralda.

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.

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.

Johnson, Adam  
*The Orphan Master's Son*
An orphan in North Korea works with a state-run service to kidnap Japanese citizens. This Pulitzer-prize winning novel explores humanity and corruption with amazing mastery.

Kazantzakis, Nikos  
*Zorba the Greek*
A master of clean, beautiful prose and trenchant characterization, Kazantzakis tells the story of a young would-be intellectual and an older, all-embracing wanderer who fall into an unlikely companionship.
This is a novel that revolves around the inner secrets and desires of a dusted city. The city is home to a Jesuit boys’ school, and it is filled with priests and teachers, but it seems everyone there has a secret – and it is only a matter of time before they begin to rock the small city.

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.)

Considered Kesey’s magnum opus, this novel is the story of the Stampers, a logging family in Oregon. While workers in nearby towns are striking, the Stampers continue to cut trees for the local mill.

Astrid Jones is a high school senior who, at age 10, moved from the Upper Westside of Manhattan to Unity Falls, Pennsylvania, where she becomes fairly frustrated with her life and the hypocrisy of small-town society.

Nathan Price, an evangelical Baptist, brings his wife and four daughters to the Belgian Congo in 1959. The Price family’s tragic story is told in the alternating voices of the Price daughters.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

A teenage boy wakes up every day in the body of a new person.

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.

Lindsay, Joan  
**Picnic at Hanging Rock**
At a private boarding school for girls everything seems upright, prestigious, and well mannered, until that protected world is shattered by the disappearance of four of the students from a school picnic. This involved mystery takes its winding path through the lives of many characters and questions the privileged lives that many of them live.

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.

McBride, Laura  
**We Are Called to Rise**
Seemingly unrelated stories about a family of immigrants, a failing marriage, and a social worker are connected in an unexpected way.

McCann, Colum  
**Let the Great World Spin**
This book begins with Philippe Petit walking a tightrope between the twin towers of the World Trade Center in 1974. It is a marvelous sight. Several people look up to see the tight-rope walker and this shared act of perception connects their lives forever.

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.

McCullough, Colleen  
**The Thorn Birds**
The life of the Cleary family is changed when the father, Paddy, receives a job offer from his sister to work on her sheep farm in the Outback. Maggie Cleary, the youngest sibling and the only daughter of the family, befriends a priest named Ralph who has been exiled to the remote town parish.

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  
**Lonesome Dove**
A western epic about a cattle drive, love, loneliness, and an evil Comanche named Blue Duck.

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.

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.
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.

Mistry, Rohinton  
**A Fine Balance**  
The story of five individuals living in India who must follow its repressive caste system and navigate the corrupt Indian government.

Mitchell, David  
**Cloud Atlas**  
Six nested stories through time tell the tale of what appears to be a single soul. Each story contains crucial elements of the previous story, leaving the reader convinced that each main character is the reincarnated version of the previous.

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, Christopher  
**Lamb: The Gospel of Christ According to Biff**  
Jesus’s pal Biff works to fill in the blanks of Jesus’s life left by the Bible.

Moore, Lorrie  
**A Gate at the Stairs**  
Moore’s beautifully written novel explores the shadow of 9/11 on American culture through the bumpy coming of age story of a young mid-western woman.

Murakami, Haruki  
**1Q84**  
A surreal tale of mystery, murder, the uncertainty of reality, and the power of true love, 1Q84 is set in 1984 Japan - or is it?

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 and victim of the Holocaust, this novel recounts the realities of war from the civilian’s perspective.

Niffenegger, Audrey  
**The Time Traveler’s Wife**  
This love story is of a man with a genetic disorder that causes him to unpredictably time travel and his wife, an artist, who must struggle to cope with his dangerous and erratic experiences in different times.

Nomen, Non  
**The Unwords**  
A nameless but brutally honest narrator takes us on a thought-provoking and philosophical journey through the fallacies of our language and social and moral decay. This author is without name, face, or anything to gain, and therefore has no reason to lie to the reader.

Obreht, Tea  
**The Tiger’s Wife**  
Natalia, a young doctor living in the Balkans, has been shaped by two things: war and her grandfather. But when her grandfather dies in a seemingly random location after lying about his destination, Natalia realizes that he had been hiding secrets from everyone.

Oliver, Lauren  
**Before I Fall**  
A compelling, emotional, and beautiful novel about what it means to live and die. Mia dies in a tragic accident, yet has the unique opportunity to relive her death and change the past. What if you could get a second chance in life?
Orwell, George  
1984  
In a dystopian society where Big Brother watches everything and the population behaves like mindless robots, Winston and Julia attempt to break away from their controlling world.

Otsuka, Julie  
The Buddha in the Attic  
Depicting the extraordinary lives of Japanese “picture brides” who come to the US at the turn of the century, this slim yet powerful novel tells of the collective experience of a group of idealistic young women and touches on the themes of assimilation, racism and the American Dream. Finalist for the 2011 National Book Award.

Ozeki, Ruth  
A Tale for the Time Being  
In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao decides there is only one way out of her loneliness and classmates’ bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao decides to document the life of her great grandmother. Across the Pacific, Ruth discovers a collection of artifacts washed up on the shore of the remote island on which she resides.

Palahniuk, Chuck  
Invisible Monsters  
After successful, young model Shannon McFarland is horribly disfigured in a mysterious accident on the highway, she embarks on a cross-country journey with Brandy Alexander, a charismatic transsexual who urges her to change her life.

Parker, James L.  
Once a Runner  
Quentin Cassidy, a runner banned from collegiate competition, trains in seclusion to race a world record holder. Through running Cassidy learns about his own strength.

Pasternak, Boris  
Dr. Zhivago  
Set against the Russian Revolution and its aftermath: the ruthless Kamarovsky, the beautiful Lara, the faithful Tonia, and a gifted young doctor and poet named Zhivago struggle to survive.

Pearson, Mary E.  
The Adoration of Jenna Fox  
Jenna Fox wakes up from a coma remembering nothing. She is told she was in a car accident and has recently recovered, but nothing is as appears in this exploration of bioethics and coming of age.

Peet, Mal  
Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal  
This is the captivating depiction of a 15-year-old girl, Tamar, deciphering the contents of a box she inherited from Grandfather.

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. Sparse, 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.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth  
Life as We Knew It  
After an asteroid moves the moon’s orbit significantly, tsunamis and other natural disasters run rampant. The narrator, Miranda, provides insight into private lives as schools are shut down, food supplies are depleted, and society crumbles.

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.
Punke, Michael  
*The Revenant*

It is the cold winter on the American Frontier, and the Rocky Mountain Fur Trappers are deep in the woods. When Hugh Glass gets mauled by a bear, his company men leave him to die.

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.

Rand, Ayn  
*Atlas Shrugged*

In this dystopian science fiction, mystery, and romance novel, society’s most influential abandon their wealth and power in response to the United States’ new regulations that are destroying many of the country's vital industries.

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.

Rash, Ron  
*One Foot in Eden*

Equal parts crime novel and Southern Gothic, a small-town sheriff investigates the murder of a local thug, but problems arise when the sheriff can find neither the body nor someone to attest to the killing.

Reilly, Matthew  
*Area 7*

When the President of the United States visits America’s most secret military base, Area 7, he unwittingly plunges into a race for survival.

Roberts, Gregory David  
*Shantaram*

An Australian convict escapes prison and flees to the bustling city of Mumbai where he is hoping to get lost in the city’s confusion.

Robinson, Marilynne  
*Housekeeping*

Sent to live with their grandmother, sisters, Ruthie and Lucille, find themselves set up in a more stable environment than they are used to. The narrator, Ruthie, observes her constantly changing world with an unclouded and keen eye.

Roth, Henry  
*Call It Sleep*

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

Rowell, Rainbow  
*Eleanor & Park*

Park and Eleanor are smart enough to know the delicate love they share is not likely to last, but they are brave enough to try. Rowell’s first YA novel is a tribute to teenage love and a love story to the 1980’s.

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.
Shchlink, Bernhard

*The Reader*

Michael Berg was fifteen when he enjoyed an illicit affair with an intimidatingly beautiful older woman, Hanna Schmitz. But their liaison lasts just a few months: one day when Michael comes to visit Hanna, he finds her house empty. Years later, Michael meets Hanna again -- when she is on trial for having worked as a guard at Auschwitz.

See, Lisa

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

Eighty-year old Lily reflects back on her friendship with Snow Flower, her *lao tong* (old same), and the mistake that broke their friendship.

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.

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.

Stein, Garth

*The Art of Racing in the Rain*

Enzo is a dog with a nearly human soul. In his final hours, Enzo recalls his life with his owner, up-and-coming racecar driver, Denny Swift.

Steinbeck, John

*In Dubious Battle*

In John Steinbeck's story of an apple pickers' strike in California, Jim Nolan joins “the Party” and is quickly assigned to help apple pickers organize a strike, where he learns a lot about himself and society around him.

Stendhal

*The Red and the Black*

This introspective novel traces 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 grewed,” and the villainous Simon Legree.

Strout, Elizabeth

*The Burgess Boys*

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.

Swift, Jonathan

*Gulliver's Travels*

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

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 family’s 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.

Toibin, Colm  
*The Blackwater Lightship*
The women of three generations of a family return to and reunite with each other at their home on a cliff overlooking the sea off of Ireland. A novel about three women who have each been estranged from each other in one way or another, Toibin’s work highlights the power of family in overcoming the distance that time puts between people.

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 19th century British society.

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  
*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
A man is transported back in time to King Arthur’s court and placed in dangerous situations. He must use his knowledge of the time to appear as an all-knowing magician, protect himself, and get back to his own time.

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  
*Cat’s Cradle*
Determined to write a non-fiction account entitled *The Day the World Ends* about the day a nuclear bomb drops on Hiroshima, freelance journalist John travels to Ilium, New York. On his journey he considers science, technology, and religion while satirizing the arms race and other targets along the way.

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  
*The Broom of the System*
A swerving human tale—representative of Wallace’s honesty and humor—in which a young woman deals with the perils of a clingy older boyfriend, an oversized male pursuant, and a home-consigned grandmother who has disappeared. Ultimately a self-referential story about stories and about language: our need for it, its fallibility, and its strength.

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.

Ward, Jesmyn  
*Salvage the Bones*
Hurricane Katrina builds over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi where an unforgettable family of motherless children pulls together to face another day.
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  
*Ethan Frome*
Just one hundred pages, *Ethan Frome* is a tragedy to be consumed in a single sitting. Not unlike Wharton’s larger work *The Age of Innocence*, it focuses on one man’s troublesome choice between love and propriety.

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 despite a domineering mother, a clinging girlfriend, and provincial Southern traditions.

Wolfe, Tom  
*The Bonfire of the Vanities*
Out with his mistress, Wall Street 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.

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

Barker, Pat  
*Regeneration*
In 1917, a noted poet and decorated war hero refuses to continue serving as a British officer in WWI. He is officially classified "mentally unsound" and sent to a war hospital.

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.

Chevalier, Tracy  
**Girl With a Pearl Earring**  
It is 1664 in Holland, and sixteen-year-old Griet and her family are on the verge of poverty. To feed her family, Griet is sent out to work as a maid to the now-famous painter Vermeer.

Conklin, Tara  
**The House Girl**  
Set more than one hundred years apart, this story follows 21st century lawyer Lina Sparrow as she leads a lawsuit in reparations for descendants of American slaves, focusing on the life of slave Josephine Bell in 1852.

Crane, Stephen  
**The Red Badge of Courage**  
The cost 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.

Cross, Donna Woolfolk  
**Pope Joan**  
Based on the medieval legend of the only female Pope, the dark ages are brought to life in this vivid recounting of her story.

Diamant, Anita  
**The Boston Girl**  
Set in the early twentieth century, The Boston Girl follows the complicated life of Addie Baum, who was born to Italian immigrant parents, as she tries to find her voice in a growing urban environment.

Diamant, Anita  
**The Red Tent**  
The story of Jacob and his children -- with a twist. Told by his only daughter, Dinah, *The Red Tent* fills in Biblical gaps -- from her “four mothers” to the husband that she lost.

Doctorow, E.L.  
**Ragtime**  
Told through the eyes of three fictional American families and several actual historical figures, *Ragtime* captures the spirit of America at the turn of the century just before the start of World War I.

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**  
Intrigue, murder, theology, and semiotics lead to mystery in a 14th century Italian monastery.

Follett, Ken  
**Pillars of the Earth**  

Forna, Aminatta  
**The Hired Man**  
A family buys a house in a small Croatian village. When they come to work on the house the reader learns about the twisted history of the village and this house in particular through the memories of a hired man, named Duro.

Forsythe, Frederick  
**The Day of the Jackal**  
Shortly after the French have withdrawn from Nigeria, the meticulous plans for the assassination of apolitical figure, the renowned Charles De Gaulle, and the equally meticulous search for the assassin unfold in suspenseful succession.
George, Margaret  
*The Memoirs of Cleopatra*  
Cleopatra, the last ruler of Egypt, does everything she can to keep her beloved country out of trouble. With a little luck and a lot of courage, she outlives all of the other members of her family and struggles on to become one of the most famous Egyptian pharaohs of all time.

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.

Grossman, David  
*The Intimate Book of Grammar*  
Against the backdrop of Israel’s Six Days War, Grossman portrays a physically delayed Aron Kelinfeld, an adult whose mind is trapped in a twelve year-old boy’s body. Set during Israel’s Six Day War in 1967.

Hannah, Kristin  
*The Nightingale*  
Kristin Hannah captures the story of two sisters, separated by their choices and circumstances, set against the backdrop of France during World War II.

Hoffman, Alice  
*The Museum of Extraordinary Things*  
This novel, set in the chaotic first few decades of the twentieth century in New York, tells the love story of two very different people, performer Coralie Sardie and photographer Eddie Cohen as they slowly come together through their own adventures among heiresses, thugs, and idealists.

Kelly, Jacqueline  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*  
In 1899, women are still seen as inferior and required to stay home and raise children. Eleven year old Calpurnia Virginia Tate defies these expectations by studying with her grandfather, a naturalist.

Lederer, William J. and E. Burdick  
*The Ugly American*  
A forceful indictment of the United States' tactless and also ineffectual conduct of foreign policy in Southeast Asia.

Mailer, Norman  
*The Naked And The Dead*  
A gripping novel about Americans fighting the Japanese during World War II.

Mantel, Hillary  
*Wolf Hall*  
England in 1520 is a heartbeat away from disaster! If the king dies without a male heir, the country could face civil war. Henry VIII wants to divorce his wife, Katherine of Aragon, and marry Anne Boleyn. The surprising protagonist of *Wolf Hall* is Thomas Cromwell, an idealist and an opportunist, who responds to Henry’s quest for an annulment.

McClain, Paula  
*The Paris Wife*  
Follow the story of Hadley as she meets and marries Ernest Hemingway.

O’Brien, Patrick  
*Master and Commander*  
The first installment of the Aubrey-Maturin epic, this great voyage is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars.

O’Brien, Tim  
*In the Lake of the Woods*  
O’Brien narrows his focus to one soldier’s life after returning home from active duty as he explores the consequences of military combat in Vietnam. How did this war affect the soldiers that served in an “uncertain war for uncertain reasons? O’Brien’s novel portrays the impact of Vietnam on one military family after a soldier returns home.

Powers, Kevin  
*The Yellow Birds*  
The novel opens in 2004 as two young soldiers prepare for war in Iraq—a freshly imagined bildungsroman about a soldier’s coming of age. Twenty-one year old Bartle promises one frightened mother that he will look after her eighteen-year old son. An Iraq War veteran, Powers tells a “true war story” with the spare, precise language of a poet.
Pynchon, Thomas  
*Inherent Vice*  
Set in 1970 Los Angeles, private investor Larry “Doc” Sportello must fight through the drug-induced haze of the era to solve a mystery introduced to him by his former girlfriend.

Shaara, Michael  
*Killer Angels*  
A gripping view of the battle of Gettysburg through the eyes of the main players, both the famous and the obscure.

Slotkin, Richard  
*Abe: A Novel of the Young Lincoln*  
An American president “comes-of-age” in this creative portrayal of young Abe Lincoln, and Slotkin weaves imagination with historical detail to engage readers. When Abe loses both his mother and sister, he travels from north to south along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, and he becomes a different person in the process.

Sobel, Dava  
*Galileo’s Daughter*  
Sobel’s novel about “The Father of Modern Science” is based on letters between Galileo and his illegitimate daughter.

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 19th century to the establishment of the state of Israel.

Weir, Alison  
*A Dangerous Inheritance*  
England’s history has long been filled with usurpations, contentious crowning, and romantic affairs that end in blood.

Wharton, Edith  
*A Son At The Front*  
Wharton’s response to the Great War was largely criticized or ignored by a war-weary public in 1922. Wharton’s story portrays the devastation of war on the home front.

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.

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz  
*The Prisoner of Heaven*  
In late 1950s Barcelona, Daniel Sempere’s partner in crime, Fermín receives a mysterious inscribed message in a gifted beautifully illustrated edition of the *Count of Monte Cristo* that touches on a buried secret of imprisonment, murder, love, and betrayal that leads to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books.

**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.

Alvarez, Julia  
*A Wedding in Haiti*  
Growing up in the Dominican Republic, author and poet Julia Alvarez says she learned to view neighboring Haiti with suspicion. But her promise to a Haitian boy named Piti inspired her to smuggle he and his family out of Haiti.

Ambrose, Hugh  
*The Pacific*  
An in-depth look at the lives of the Marine and Navy servicemen in the Pacific during World War II written by the son of the author of *Band of Brothers*, this book is told through the points of view of several soldiers and their journey through the war, from Corregidor to Okinawa.
Ambrose, Stephen  
*Band of Brothers*

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

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.

Berendt, John  
*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

Set in Savannah, the murder of local male prostitute, Danny Hansford, by the celebrated antiques dealer, Jim Williams, serves as the catalyst of a story full of vibrant, eccentric characters.

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, K and Martin J. S  
*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.

Boo, Katherine  
*Behind The Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*

A 2012 National Book Award Winner and National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist. Boo spent three years in a Mumbai slum to document the opposing realities of poverty and wealth, realities that are even more disparate than those in America.

Boulle, 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.

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.

Bryson, Bill  
*A Walk in the Woods*

Bryson describes his foray into hiking the Appalachian Trail with great humor, self-deprecating wit and the occasional bear scare.

Cain, Susan  
*Quiet: The Power of Introverts*

This discussion about the importance of introverts from Susan Cain is a revolutionary take on the stereotypes and misconceptions of Western culture on the “inferiority” of the quiet. Cain delivers a powerful message about misunderstanding and the changing of Western perception.

Capote, Truman  
*In Cold Blood*

Truman Capote looks into the murder of the Clutter family in a small Kansas town, while bringing to light the lives of the killers before and after the crime.
Carroll, Sean  From Eternity to Here
Building on Stephen Hawking’s work nearly twenty years before, Sean Carroll gives a new theory about the arrow of time, incorporating along the way topics such as time travel and quantum mechanics.

Cheng, Eugenia  How to Bake Pi
A discussion of mathematics, with a focus on category theory, and its role in the real world with analogies to baking.

Chernow, Ron  Alexander Hamilton
The biography on the life and achievements of Alexander Hamilton, which inspired the hit new musical Hamilton.

Chong, Denise  The Girl in the Picture
On June 8, 1972, a nine-year old South Vietnamese girl was napaled 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 8th.

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.

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.

Dawkins, Richard  The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True
An accessible investigation of fundamental scientific questions.

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.

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.

Ehrenreich, Barbara  Nickel and Dimed
The compelling, shocking, and often humorous account of an undercover journalist who tries to make ends meet the way most Americans do: as a minimum-wage worker in Walmart, maid services, and restaurants.

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."

Erlich, Gretel  The Solace of Open Spaces
One woman’s quest to understand the American West through cowboys, sheep ranching, and storms of the skies and the soul.

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. Thrilling, shocking, saddening, and enraging, this is a crucial work for those seeking to understand the post-Bush, post-9/11 world.
Finkel, David  
*The Good Soldiers*
In January 2007, President George Bush announced a new strategy for Iraq that became known as “the surge”. Among those called to war were the army infantry soldiers of the 2-16, also known as Rangers. Fifteen months later, fourteen were dead and the others returned home—forever changed.

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.

Freidan, Betty  
*The Feminine Mystique*
In 1963, *The Feminine Mystique* exploded into the American consciousness and started a feminist revolution.

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.

Gamow, George  
*One Two Three… Infinity: Facts and Speculation of Science*
Exploring such topics as number theory, entropy, nuclear physics, and spacetime, this book explains fascinating and complex science in math in terms a anyone from high school level to “intelligent layman” adults can understand.

Garcia, Christina  
*Dreaming in Cuban*
A perceptive and poignant view of one family divided politically and geographically by the Cuban revolution and by the generational issues that separate them.

Garrett, Laurie  
*The Coming Plague*

Gladwell, Malcolm  
*Outliers: The Story of Success*
Ever wondered why planes crash, how Bill Gates became so successful, or why Asians are so good at math? Gladwell explores the reasons behind to these outliers of life and comes up with surprising answers.

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.

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.

Gardner, Mark Lee  
*Jesse James: The Northfield Raid and the Wild West's Great Escape*
Gardner tells the hour-by-hour story of the James-Younger Gang and their last robbery. Their crime ends with the ensuing manhunt and bloody shootout on the Watonwan River.
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.

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.

Hillenbrand, Laura  
*Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*
Louis Zamperini goes from ruffian to Olympic track star to World War II and the Army Air Corps. Louis and his fellow corpsmen are lost at sea and later captured by the Japanese.

Hitchens, Christopher  
*God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*
Hitchens, an English author, polemicist, debater, and journalist, describes how religion is man-made and immoral.

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, lead singer of The Doors, who rose to fame and fortune and crashed to his demise.

Judt, Tony  
*Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*
A comprehensive history of postwar Europe by historian Tony Judt. The author distills sixty years of political conflict, social turmoil, and economic evolution into eight hundred pages.

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.

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.
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.

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.

Larson, Erik  
*Devil in the White City*
The 1893 Chicago World’s Fair shapes the lives of two men, the architect Daniel Burnham and serial killer H.H. Holmes in this four-part nonlinear novel that takes place between 1890-1895.

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.

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.

Lindley, Davi  
*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. Chemistry students will find this book very enlightening, as it delves deeper into many topics only brushed upon during the survey course.

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.

McCullough, David  
*John Adams*
In this biography of the illustrious president and statesman, McCullough exposes a darker side to our founding father, revealing his belligerent personality through humorous anecdotes.

McNamara, Robert S  
*In Retrospect*
Former Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, candidly recounts the United States’ descent into the Vietnam War and his own actions in the conflict.

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 K.  
*Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman*
Pulitzer prize-winning writer Robert Massie tells the compelling story of an obscure, young German princess who rose to become Empress of Russia and ultimately one of the most accomplished and powerful women in history. A rich, colorful and very readable biography.
Massie, Robert  **Nicholas and Alexandra**

Czarevich Alexis' hemophilia draws the fraudulent monk Rasputin to the center of power in Russia, where his influence is one factor in the Russian Revolution.

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.

Max, D. T.  **Every Love Story is a Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace**

Wallace made an extraordinary impact on American writing until his suicide in 2008. American literature lost one of the most influential writers of our time. Max carefully researched the writer’s life and work—drawing on conversations with family and friends and hundreds of unpublished letters, manuscripts, and audio-recordings.

Nicholls, Henry  **The Galapagos: A Natural History**

Henry Nicholls builds up the ecology of these famous islands, from their explosive origins to the arrival of the archipelago's celebrated reptiles and ultimately humans.

O'Connor, Anne-Marie  **The Lady in Gold**

The spellbinding story, part fairy tale, part suspense, of Gustav Klimt’s Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, one of the most emblematic portraits of its time; of the beautiful, seductive Viennese Jewish salon hostess who sat for it and of the painting's fate.

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*.

Reston Jr., James  **Warriors of God**

This gripping narrative of the Third Crusade examines the conflict through the forceful personalities of its leaders, England’s Richard the Lion Heart and the great Sultan Saladin.

Rhodes, Richard  **The Making of the Atomic Bomb**

A fascinating narrative that chronicles the nuclear scientists during World War II whose research culminated in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Roach, Mary  **Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers**

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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 in big arenas may draw the headlines, but the heart and soul of the game are still found on the playgrounds and schoolyards of the inner city. An unforgettable look at friendships, frustrations, dreams, and the reality of 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.

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.

Tougasias, Michael J.  
*Overboard*
The riveting narrative of a sudden, monstrous storm at sea and the miraculous coast guard rescue of Loch Reidy, father of Ashley Reidy ’10, 20 hours after he was washed overboard.

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.

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.

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.

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, H. C. & H. H. The Dalai Lama  The Art of Happiness
This interview with the Dalai Lama explains the importance of seeking happiness. Is it better to obtain everything we want or to want and appreciate what we have? How can we strengthen our connection to others?

Gandhi, Mohandas K.  Satyagraha
Various articles and interviews of Gandhi describing the philosophies and effectiveness of nonviolent resistance.

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
An 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.

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.

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, Miyato  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, Frederick  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.

Sartre, Jean-Paul  Existentialism and Human Emotions
Sartre suggests the philosophical notion that we live in a universe without purpose.

Thoreau, Henry David  Walden
Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau considers man’s relationship with 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**

**Anonymous (t. Dorothy Sayers)**  
_The Song of Roland_  
A medieval epic full of jealousy, betrayal, blood and gore as well as fierce fighting, loyalty, and sweet revenge.

**Anonymous (trans. Stephen Mitchell)**  
_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.

**Baudelaire, Charles (t. 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.

**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_  
Emily Dickinson is one of the greatest poets of all time. This selection, chosen by Joyce Carol Oates, marks Dickinson's best poetic works.

**Collins, Billy**  
_Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems_  
This is a collection of past poems and new poems by the well-known American poet, Billy Collins, a two-time Poet Laureate. These poems are approachable and touching.

**Dickinson, Emily**  
_The Essential Dickinson_  
Emily Dickinson is one of the greatest poets of all time. This selection, chosen by Joyce Carol Oates, marks Dickinson's best poetic works.

**Elliot, 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._

**Fry, Christopher**  
_Venus Observed_  
Duke is a single parent who calls three former lovers to his home and asks his son to pick one as his new mother. Fry's verse-drama alternates between well-placed witticisms and real-life disasters.

**Fugard, Athol**  
_Valley Song_  
In post-apartheid South Africa, Fugard's play explores evolving racial and generational differences.

**Ginsberg, Allen**  
_Howl and Other Poems_  
A seminal work from the Beat movement that epitomizes the power of a lengthy line, well-strung. Full of real-life pain and evocative imagery, all sung ecstatically.
Goethe, J. Wolfgang von (t. Kaufmann)  *Faust*
The seminal recasting of a German legend in which a talented but unsatisfied scholar surrenders his soul in exchange for unlimited knowledge and pleasure. Written in dramatic verse.

Heaney, Seamus (translator)  *Beowulf*
Heaney translates this epic poem that was passed down by oral tradition until carefully recorded by an anonymous monk during the 6th century. Considered by many scholars as the beginning of Anglo-Saxon literature, the hero is a Viking warrior who seeks immortality through brave deeds.

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 (t. Czeslaw Milosz)  *Selected Poems*
Sometimes austere, sometimes sardonic, these poems, written by one of Poland's greatest poets, are translated into English by another.

Ionesco, Eugene (t. 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 (H. B. Forman, ed.)  *The Poetical Works of John Keats*
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.

Moliere  *The School for Wives*
Arnolphe, a middle-aged man mystified by femininity, raises and grooms Agnes, his naive ward, to be his wife. The extent to which his plan backfires satirizes the treatment of women in 17th century France.
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.

Perse, Saint-John  
**Selected Poems**
Translated by a range of literary scholars (including Denis Devlin and T. S. Eliot), these poems reveal a strange, poignant world vision in which expression is everything, in which the objective becomes the associative and the concrete becomes the abstract. **Selected Poems** is a beautiful realization on new ways to see and understand.

Pope, Alexander  
**The Rape of the Lock and Other Major Writings**
Master of the English heroic couplet, Pope's witty cast of mind provides a steady undercurrent for versatile musings on philosophy and the state of man. (Includes whole essays written in metered, rhyming verse.)

Rich, Adrienne  
**Telephone Ringing in the Labyrinth**
Rich’s powerful and elegant poetry examines life and culpability through the lens of her profound sense for the passage of time.

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.

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.

Rimbaud, A. (t. Harding & Sturrock)  
**Selected Poems and Letters**
Rooted in the physical human experience, these poems nevertheless attain a symbolic, heavy associative drive. Rimbaud portrays a prodigy who abandoned writing entirely by his early twenties.

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**
One of the most unforgettable personalities of French drama, Cyrano de Bergerac, is the wittiest and most skilled duelist that 17th century Paris has ever seen. Cyrano secretly loves his cousin, the beautiful Roxanne, and is only hindered by self-doubt and an extremely large nose.

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 "the tenth Muse." This new translation captures the striking intensity of Sappho’s surviving work.

Shaw, George Bernard  
**Heartbreak House**
George Bernard Shaw's play captivates audiences with eccentric characters like the elderly Captain Shotover. Overtly comic, the playwright portrays the British upper class response to World War I.
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 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.

Strindberg, August  
A Dream Play  
Strindberg’s play is a surreal drama that subordinates time and reality to the inner human experience. Scenes and characters intersperse and merge and drift apart again; some characters exit dissatisfied and later return, drawn by forces they feel but cannot understand.

Szymborska, W. (t. Baranczak)  
View With A Grain Of Sand  
Szymborska's straightforward language creates poems that seem to hover, suspended by the resonant combination of unobtrusive words and breaks. Captures the simple truths and painful realities of our lives and their histories.

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  
An American poet's "masterwork" embraces humanity in original verse.

Wordsworth, W. and S. T. 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.

Yeats, W.B.  
The Collected Poems of W. B. Yeats  
A twentieth-century master of English verse weaves diverse topics and themes—love and mythology, pain and national identity—in a keen, poignant, lyrical voice.

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.

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES AND MEMOIRS

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.

Bauby, Jean-Dominique  
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly  
The editor of Elle when he had a massive stroke at age 43, 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.
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.

Cahalan, Susannah  
*Brain on Fire*
A autobiography of a woman’s journey through mental madness. She wakes up with no memory of the past month and is diagnosed with encephalitis, which causes her delusions, violent outbreaks, and psychotic episodes.

Carr, David  
*The Night of the Gun*
The author investigates the story of his descent into, and eventual climb out of, the cocaine lifestyle by interviewing former acquaintances. He discovers that he was much worse off than he had thought.

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

Cleaver, Eldridge  
*Soul on Ice*
The memoirs of a Black Panther, this novel helped to change the way America viewed the Civil Rights movement.

Didion, Joan  
*The Year of Magical Thinking*
The heart-wrenching narrative of Didion’s 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.

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.

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.

Fuller, Alexandra  
*Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight*
Fuller recounts her childhood as a white girl growing up in apartheid South Africa.

Gaiman, Neil  
*The Sandman Series*
Possibly one of the most brilliant graphic novel series ever written, Sandman follows the story of the King of Dreams (a personification of the act of dreaming) who eventually must change, or die.

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.

Hancock, Herbie  
*Possibilities*
Legendary jazz pianist Herbie Hancock recounts his decades long career starting in Miles Davis’s second great quintet, continuing through his late 70’s foray into funk and R&B. Hancock tells behind-the-scene stories of his performances, his struggles with drug addiction and his eventual conversion to Buddhism.

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 Muhammud, the Black Muslim and his journey to Mecca, which occasioned his eventual break with Muhammud.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hirsi Ali, Ayaani</td>
<td>Infidel</td>
<td>Raised in a strict Muslim family, Hirsi Ali survived oppression as a devout believer during the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four unstable countries ruled largely by despots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerman, Piper</td>
<td>Orange is the New Black</td>
<td>Kerman’s memoir explores her time in a Connecticut prison for women after being convicted of drug-trafficking. Kerman's perspective on the criminal justice system and her endearing portrait of a unique community of women behind bars make her memoir unforgettable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karr, Mary</td>
<td>The Liar's Club</td>
<td>At once poetic and astonishingly witty, this memoir tells the story of a young Texas girl growing up by the seat of her pants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klein, Genda Weissmann</td>
<td>All But My Life</td>
<td>The autobiography of a girl struggling to survive during the Holocaust, reminiscent of Anne Frank’s famous diary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levi, Primo</td>
<td>Survival in Auschwitz</td>
<td>The author’s vivid account of ten months spent in concentration camps during World War II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCourt, Frank</td>
<td>Angela’s Ashes</td>
<td>The riveting and appalling story of a family's absolute devastation amid the squalor and poverty of Ireland, told with brutal honesty and, miraculously, with fine humor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishima, Yukio</td>
<td>Sun and Steel</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moody, Anne</td>
<td>A Coming of Age in Mississippi</td>
<td>In a brutally candid autobiography, Moody portrays her life in the American South of the 1940’s and 1950’s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northup, Solomon</td>
<td>12 Years a Slave</td>
<td>Solomon Northup narrates the 12-year struggle to escape slavery after being kidnapped in 1891. Solomon recalls people, places, and events that became important during his long captivity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plath, Sylvia</td>
<td>The Bell Jar</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodriguez, Richard</td>
<td>Hunger of Memory</td>
<td>A beautiful and reflective study of the ambiguous value of an American education for a talented Mexican-American.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stutzman, Paul</td>
<td>Hiking Through</td>
<td>Stutzman recounts his 2,176 mile journey along the Appalachian Trail, revealing how nature and companionship with other hikers helped him recover from a debilitating loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twain, Mark</td>
<td>Life on the Mississippi</td>
<td>An examination of the river Twain writes so often about and how it shaped him, which relies not only on Twain’s observations and recollections, but also sources such as the early drafts of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and memoirs of the river’s travelers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van DeVanter, Lynda</td>
<td>Home Before Morning</td>
<td>A nurse tells her moving and often horrifying story of medical service in Vietnam during the war.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Welty, Eudora  
*One Writer's Beginnings*

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

Wiesel, Elie  
*All Rivers Run to the Sea: Memoirs*

The life story of Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel who survived Auschwitz unbroken in spirit and worked to fight indifference for the rest of his life.

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.

Wolff, Tobias  
*In Pharaoh’s Army*

Shattered illusions and personal loss during wartime: Wolff's memoir portrays a soldier’s accelerated coming of age in Vietnam. Wolff’s survival depends on blind luck and his ability to appear inoffensive.

Yousafzai, Malala  
*I Am Malala*

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday October 9, 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price.

**MYSTERY**

Coben, Harlan  
*Tell No One*

While vacationing at their lake house, David Beck’s wife and childhood sweetheart Elizabeth Parker was brutally murdered. Eight years later, David receives a cryptic email hinting that Elizabeth might be alive.

Collins, Wilkie  
*The Moonstone*

Often called England’s first mystery writer, Collins recounts the disappearance of a rare Indian diamond in the Yorkshire countryside. Everyone is a suspect as readers try to solve this “whodunit.”

Flynn, Vince  
*Transfer of Power*

Mitch Rapp has always kept to the shadows. However, as an agent for the CIA, he is constantly fighting to protect a country that doesn't even know of his existence. When terrorists take over the White House and hostages are taken, Mitch Rapp must find a way inside and retake America's most important icon.

Gardner, Lisa  
*Touch & Go*

Gardner spins an emotional, suspense story surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the Denbe family. In order to understand the abduction, Tessa Leoni, crime-scene investigator, must untangle the intricate and controversial secrets of the Denbe household.

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.

King, Stephen  
*Mr. Mercedes*

King’s first detective novel begins with a mass murder which must be solved by former policeman Bill Hodges who receives a letter from Mr. Mercedes claiming to be the killer.
Larson, Stieg  
*The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*

Set in Sweden, private investigator Lisbeth Salander and journalist Mikael Blomkvist work to solve a mysterious disappearance of the niece of a large corporation.

Le Carré, John  
*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*

Master spy George Smiley is pulled out of retirement to discover the identity of a Russian mole at the very top of the British Secret Service.

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.”

Pamuk, Orhan  
*My Name is Red*

A murder mystery set against the backdrop of 16th century Istanbul. When an artist commissioned by the sultan disappears, clues to the artist’s whereabouts seem to reside in the images themselves.

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, hot on the trail of a criminal with plenty of time out, between suspects, for her romance with Lord Peter Wimsey.

Smith, Tom Rob  
*Child 44*

In Soviet Russia, it can be dangerous to reveal your true existence. Agent Leo Demidov doesn’t face that problem: he doesn’t remember his childhood. Working as the police in a nation where “crime doesn’t exist,” Leo must confront the mysterious problems of his country while simultaneously confronting his unknown past.

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.

Bacigalupi, Paolo  
*The Windup Girl*

In a post Oil-Crash Bangkok ravaged by genetically engineered diseases, Anderson Lake is the representative of Agri-Gen, a calorie company at the forefront of global trade and western economic dominance.

Barker, Clive.  
*Abarat*

Candy Quackenbush’s life in Chickentown, Minnesota is utterly boring, until an ocean rolls into the plains near her town.

Bell, Hilari  
*Fall of the Kingdom*

A prophesied hero has always come to protect Farsala in times of need, but when an invading nation approaches the land’s borders, four teens across the nation realize that nobody is going to save them.
Bujold, Lois McMaster  *The Warrior’s Apprentice (The Miles Vorkosigan Saga)*  
When Miles suffers an accident, he loses his dream of a military career. Through trickery and improvisation, he gains control of a mercenary fleet, and learns the meaning of command.

Card, Orson Scott  *Ender’s Game*  
Orson Scott Card tells an uncontrived and original story of teenage becoming as Ender Wiggin and other genius children are recruited to fight an invading alien force and are sent to space to train.

Clarke, Arthur C.  *2001: A Space Odyssey*  
Adapted from the movie, this novel traces the evolution of man from the dawn of intelligence to his exploration of the universe.

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.

Crichton, Michael  *Sphere*  
Under the calm blue waters of the Pacific Ocean, a mysterious sphere is discovered. A team of scientists is flown in to conduct a top-secret investigation of what could be the first signs of alien life on earth.

Cussler, Clive  *Atlantis Found*  
When NUMA Agent Dirk Pitt discovers that a seemingly random set of events are connected, he discovers an ancient mystery with devastating modern consequences.

Dick, Philip K.  *Radio Free Albemuth*  
This posthumously published novel offers a rewritten history of an America that suffers from political oppression.

Grossman, Lev  *The Magicians (The Magician's Trilogy)*  
Quentin Coldwater explores his new, exciting life in the fantastical land of Fillory. Coldwater searches for magic and a purpose to a bleak and apathetic subsistence. In a chillingly realistic portrayal of humanity, Grossman’s book also illustrates the challenge of daily life.

Hartman, Rachel  *Seraphina*  
Set in medieval times with a 16 year old heroine who is a gifted musician with a secret to hide. In Seraphina’s world, dragons and humans try to co-exist—but not hard enough.

Heinlein, Robert  *Stranger in a Strange Land*  
A heroic stranger, reared on Mars, returns to Earth to create a Utopian society.

Herbert, Frank  *Dune*  
In this masterpiece of science fiction, Paul Atreides seeks vengeance for the death of his father while embracing his own superhuman abilities on the desert planet Arrakis.

Ishiguro, Kazuo  *Never Let Me Go*  
Ruth, Kathy, and Tommy seem like normal children: they go to school, they pick fights, they fall in love. Yet these three children are anything but normal.

Jordan, Robert  *The Eye of the World*  
Robert Jordan’s world is full of heroes and antiheroes, hope and dismay, blessings and curses, and whatever else lies in between. Jordan follows epic tradition through universal themes in the first *The Wheel of Time* series.

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.
Martin, George R.R.  
_A Game of Thrones_  
Winter is coming to the Seven Kingdoms, and the honorable Lord Stark of the North must scatter his family and travel south to protect the King, the realm, and his own children from the ruthless machinations of the evil queen and other contenders for the Iron Throne.

Moore, Alan and Dave Gibbons  
_The 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.

Morgenstern, Erin  
_The Night Circus_  
Le Cirque des Rêves, also known as The Circus of Dreams, is the mysterious and enchanted arena where Celia and Marco, two young illusionists, compete in a “game” of magic after training since childhood. Not knowing how the game must end, they fall in love and conspire to win.

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.

Nix, Garth  
_Sabriel (Abhorsen series)_  
Sabriel has always lived safely away from the Old Kingdom where Free Magic reigns and the Dead live. When her father goes missing, Sabriel must travel deep into a dangerous world with the help of Mogget, a spirit, and a mage named Touchstone.

Rothfuss, Patrick  
_The Name of the Wind (The Kingkiller Chronicles)_  
A young orphan fights for his survival in a brutal city, and wins entry to a dangerous school of magic. As he studies, he prepares to avenge the murder of his family and learns the true price of magic.

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.

Sanderson, Brandon  
_Mistborn_  
In a world where ash falls from the sky and mist shadows the night, a mysterious evil is destroying the land, killing all life. The future of the empire is in the hands of one troublemaker and his new apprentice, who using their rare and banned powers of Allomancy (the ability to control metals) will bring back color and life for good.

Schwab, V.E.  
_A Darker Shade of Magic_  
In a London divided into four factions based on the ruler that magicians follow, the protagonist, a magician works to bring the people to other factions to see parts of their city they wouldn’t normally be allowed into.

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.

Valente, Catherynne M.  
_Deathless_  
_Deathless_ is inspired by the Russian folktale “The Death of Koschei the Deathless”, but is set in a version of Communist Russia where mythical creatures have joined the Party.

Vonnegut, Kurt  
_Cat’s Cradle_  
Kurt Vonnegut humorously addresses the arms race as well as issues of race and religion in this satirical novel about one author’s trip to the strange country of San Lorenzo.
**SHORT STORIES AND ESSAYS**

Boyle, T. C.  
*Tooth and Claw: and Other Stories*
T.C. Boyle’s smooth, energetic prose moves with a clear destination; startlingly (and sometimes dangerously) unfamiliar events reveal threads of intrigue and beauty that, really, were there all along.

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.

Chandler, Raymond  
*Farewell, My Lovely*
Hard-boiled detective stories from the private-eye era of the 1940’s.

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.

Danticat, Edwige  
*The Dew Breaker*
A series of interlocking short stories by a young Haitian-American writer explores an immigrant family’s present life in America and their past on Haiti.

De Montaigne, Michel  
*The Complete Essays*
The great sixteenth-century philosopher reflects on diverse subjects ranging from clothing to cannibalism to education.

Diaz, Junot  
*Drown*
A collection of stories about life in the roughest neighborhoods of the Dominican Republic and urban New Jersey; Diaz portrays his gritty subjects with honesty and affection.

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.

Evans, Danielle  
*Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*
Evans’ eight short stories are surprising, heartbreaking, insightful and funny.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott  
*Flappers and Philosophers*
Fitzgerald’s nineteen short stories appeared initially in magazines and quickly followed in print as admirers fans asked for more.

Gaiman, Neil  
*Trigger Warning*
In a broad range of tales that stretch from the terrifying to the incredible, Gaiman takes the reader on a journey between reality and dream.

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.

Hemingway, Ernest  
*In Our Time*
A confirmation of post-war disillusionment, Ernest Hemingway published *In Our Time* in 1925 and influenced a “Lost Generation” of writers.
Johnson, Denis  
*Jesus’ Son*
A twisted, drug-addled, poetic, dreamlike collection of fragments and journeys; a soul-draining voyage of dull and desperate moments.

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.

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.

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.

Lewis, Thomas  
*The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher*
A collection of essays for the *New England Journal of Medicine* on biology and medicine; the essays also reflect the original voice and startling prescience for which Thomas was best known.

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.

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."

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.

Munro, 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’ orbit, pulled by forces they do not understand. Each story is told with a sense of both sympathy and menace.

Novak, B.J.  
*One More Thing*
Novak creates scores of short, humorous, yet thought-provoking stories, which range from ponderings on the tale of “The Tortoise and the Hare” to school principles consumed with eliminating math from their institutions.

O’Connor, Flannery  
*The Complete Stories*
Southern Gothic masterworks to freeze the heart and chill the soul.

O. Henry  
*Stories by O. Henry*
Stories about work, morality, and human relations that are realistic, but accepting of the odd twists and turns that life can take.

Orwell, George  
*Why I Write*
A collection of essays by British author George Orwell, author of *Animal Farm* and *1984*. Orwell explains his dedication to writing, reacts to several political movements of his time, opposes England’s rigid social class system, and vehemently objects to the misuse and abuse of English in political language.

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

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.

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.

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.

White, E.B.  
*One Man’s Meat*
A collection of personal essays about “peaceful pursuits,” written with delightful and congenial humor.