A Greeting from the Committee

Welcome to the 2020 Summer Reading Guide

In this publication, you will find reading recommendations that range across genre, identity, era and country, put together by your peers, your teachers, and your librarians. If you are looking for Victorian romance, modernist poetry, incisive essays, or hard sci-fi, you are in the right place. If you are hankering for a play or a novella or a graphic novel, welcome. If you do not know what you are looking for yet, that’s even better.

The Summer Reading Committee has been working all year to bring you an intuitive, streamlined publication which will introduce you to new authors, new ideas and new texts. We have done some trimming and editing, opened up space on our metaphorical shelf, and added new titles that we feel better represent the adventurous, modern and diverse interests of Hopkins School.

On the inside cover, you’ll find a bookmark. Think of this as a summer companion designed to keep your place as well as help you discover others. It has suggestions which will inspire you to explore the Guide more broadly, and it will travel with you into your new school year as a reminder of the books you’ve enjoyed over the break.

We are so excited to share the Guide with you. We know you will find great things to read this summer, and we are looking forward to the fall, when we can come together again and discuss all the places we travelled from the comfort of our reading chairs.

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

THE SUMMER READING COMMITTEE

Guidelines

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 Guide is designed to stimulate as well as to structure wide reading and should start, not finish, your quest for pleasurable reading.

Each grade is assigned one required book for English class. 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 the required book, and to either write on or discuss the other three when they return in the fall.

Use these additional guidelines to help make your selections:

- - Books in this guide represent a wide variety of interests and reading preferences, and may include emotionally turbulent issues or mature themes. Parents may wish to be aware of what their child is reading, and to read along with them.
- - Students entering grades 7–8 may read authors from the list for students entering grades 7–8 and from the list for students entering grades 9–12. Students entering grades 9–12 will only receive credit for authors on the latter list.
- - The list represents authors and offers short descriptions of specific works to entice students. Students may read any book by an author on the appropriate list, except in the case of the required books.
- - Students must read the required books for their grades and three other previously unread books from the appropriate lists. Required reading for History courses does not count toward these three additional titles.
- - Reading for history courses is additional to the four books required for English classes. You should read the required book for the history course you are signed up to take next year.
- - Students taking AC2 and AC3 in Hopkins summer school are not required to do the summer reading normally required for those courses.
- - For advanced language students, a challenge would be to read one book in the original language it was written.
Contents

Guidelines 1
Required Books 3
List for Grades Seven and Eight
   General Fiction 4
   Historical Fiction 9
   Nonfiction 10
   Plays + Poetry 12
   Mystery 12
   Science Fiction + Fantasy 13

List for Grades Nine through Twelve
   General Fiction 17
   Historical Fiction 32
   Nonfiction 37
   Philosophy 48
   Plays + Poetry 50
   Autobiographies + Memoirs 57
   Mystery 62
   Science Fiction + Fantasy 64
   Short Stories + Essays 68

Required Books

REQUIRED READING FOR ENGLISH
GRADE 7
A Crack in the Sea by H.M. Bouwman
GRADE 8
To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
GRADE 9
The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline
GRADE 10
Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri
GRADE 11
On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King
GRADE 12
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

REQUIRED READING FOR HISTORY
ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES II
The Great Train Robbery by Michael Crichton
ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES III
Hiroshima by John Hersey
AP EUROPEAN HISTORY
The Third Man by Graham Greene
AP US HISTORY
Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis
MILITARY HISTORY
War by Sebastian Junger
PHILOSOPHY
Choose one text from the Philosophy section of this guide.
List for Grades Seven and Eight

Students entering grades 7–8 may read authors from this and from the list for students entering grades 9–12.

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.

Alexander, Kwame
The Crossover
Twelve-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood; he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse in this fast and furious novel of family and brotherhood.

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.

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.

Barrie, James M.
Peter Pan
Peter Pan and Wendy fly to Neverland—but fall into the clutches of the infamous Captain Hook.

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.

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.

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.

Ellis, Deborah
The Breadwinner
During the Taliban’s dominion of Afghanistan, eleven-year-old Parvana is tasked with disguising herself as a boy in order to financially support her family after her father’s arrest.

Greene, John
Looking For Alaska
Focused on high school juniors at a Georgia boarding school, Greene’s novel is for today what *Catcher in the Rye* and *A Separate Peace* were for their times. An honest chronicle of how convoluted and confusing growing up has become.

Haddon, Mark
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
This book is the touching story of Christopher John Francis Boone, a boy with autism 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.

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.

King, A.S.
Ask the Passengers
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 frustrated with her life and the hypocrisy of small-town society.
Pratchett, Terry

_Dodger_

Although he is now seventeen, Dodger is still a street urchin who lives in nineteenth-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.

Raskin, Ellen

_The Westing Game_

A wily “whodunnit” that features a motley cast of characters, all united by Samuel Westing’s puzzle prowess. A gripping read.

Reilly, Matthew

_Ice Station_

A team of U.S. divers vanish under the Antarctic ice shelf after making an unexpected discovery. The Marines sent to the station are soon plunged into a desperate fight for survival.

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.

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 1980s.

Ryan, Pat Muñoz

_Becoming Naomi Leon_

Naomi discovers her heritage and her identity when her absent mother reappears.

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 led into maturity by his strict teacher, Ms. Baker, and his overbearing father.

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 through concentration camps.
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?

Zusak, Markus
The Book Thief
Death narrates this unforgettable story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich during World War II in Germany. On her way to her foster family, she steals her first book, The Gravedigger's Handbook, even though she cannot yet read. With the help of her foster father, Liesel learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

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.

Cooper, Susan
King of Shadows
Nat Field is a twelve-year-old orphaned actor who travels with his theater group to England’s new Globe Theatre. Little does he know that he will wake one morning in Elizabethan England and work as William Shakespeare’s apprentice.

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.

Elliot, Laura
Under a War-Torn Sky
When Hank, a fifteen-year-old American pilot, is shot down behind enemy lines in France during World War II, he seeks the help of the French Resistance.

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 at the turn of the 20th century 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.

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.

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

Wouk, Herman
The Caine Mutiny
Conflict aboard the destroyer-minesweeper U.S.S. 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 confront the atrocities of genocide.

Bitton-Jackson, Livia
I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust
Thirteen-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
The famous author of children’s stories writes of his own childhood, including tales of the prankster at an English boarding school and then as a taster in a chocolate factory.

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.

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.

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.

Small, David
Stitches
When he was fourteen years old, David Small underwent what should have been a minor operation. Instead, Small woke up to discover a vocal cord had been removed and he was virtually mute, but he was not told he had cancer. Alongside the story of his dysfunctional and oppressive family, Small illustrates his horrific experiences and hopeful triumph.

Thompson, Craig
Blankets
Set amidst the beautiful, isolated depiction of a wintery midwestern landscape, Thompson’s graphic memoir explores love and growing up in a fundamentalist Christian community.

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.
Christie, Agatha
Murder on the Orient Express
Trapped on the train with the murderer in a blizzard, Hercule Poirot tries to solve the murder of Mr. Ratchett en route to England on the Orient Express.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
These stories feature the master plotting of England’s prize mystery solver and his faithful sidekick, Watson.

Hammet, Dashiell
The Thin Man
Nick Charles, one of fiction’s funniest detectives, makes his debut in this novel. (He is not, by the way, the thin man.)

Milford, Kate
Greenglass House
Greenglass house, a smuggler’s inn, is experiencing the arrival of unexpected guests—each with a connection to the house. Objects go missing. The inkeeper’s son Milo and the cook’s daughter Meddy investigate.

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 Chronicles of Prydain Series
This series begins with the story of Taran, the Assistant Pig Keeper; Princess Eilonwy, the 370-year-old Dalben; and Lord Gwydion as they battle the dreaded Lord of Annuvin and his host of undead.

Barron, T.A.
The Lost Years of Merlin

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.
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.

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 Series
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.

Charbonneau, Joelle
The Testing
In this dystopian novel, gifted teenagers are put through dangerous trials and tests to see if they are fit to become leaders of society.

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 magical races.

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.

Funke, Cornelia
The Thief Lord
In the magical underworld of Venice, Italy, runaway orphans Prosper and Bo fall under the protection of a mysterious thirteen-year-old who calls himself the Thief Lord, who leads a group of criminal street children.

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.

Jones, Diana Wynne
Howl’s Moving Castle
Sophie, a girl turned into an old lady by a jealous witch, must leave home in search of 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.

Lewis, C.S.
The Chronicles of Narnia Series
In the introductory volume of The Chronicles of Narnia, entitled The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, four children find a magical doorway into the land of Narnia, where the evil White Witch fights the noble lion Aslan.

McMann, Lisa
The Unwanteds (Series)
In Quill, creativity is forbidden, and the artistic teenagers are sentenced to death. However, on the day of their executions, the “Unwanted” teenagers discover a whole new world of magic...
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.

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 provides insight into private lives as schools are shut down, food supplies are depleted, and society crumbles.

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.

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 Gaiman
**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**
These popular stories tell the tale of a boy with latent magical talents raised by a non-magical family. At the Hogwarts School, Harry Potter makes several friends as well as several enemies as his fate to lead the powers of good against the evil forces of Voldemort gradually becomes more and more clear.

---

**List for Grades Nine through Twelve**

**GENERAL FICTION**

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 mystic 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 Handmaid's Tale**
A trenchant dystopian novel set in what used to be New England, this novel follows the story of Offred, a handmaiden who must navigate life in a totalitarian state where women are considered property.
Austen, Jane  
**Sense and Sensibility**  
Austen explores nineteenth-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.

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.

Barolini, Helen  
**Umbertina**  
Departing from typical migration tales that focus on men, Umbertina’s determination, ingenuity, and business sense propel the family into financial success and security as she strives for the American Dream. Umbertina has a gritty agency that she then passes on to her daughters and granddaughters, as this novel crosses the ocean multiple times on a voyage that reckons with identity and place.

Block, Francesca Lia  
**Echo**  
This novella follows the struggles and life of Echo, a young 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.

Bronte, Charlotte  
**Jane Eyre**  
A romance, dark thriller, and portrait of an independent, strong woman as relevant today as it was when published in 1847, *Jane Eyre* is often regarded as a “must-read” for every Hopkins student.

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 (t. Matthew Ward)  
**The Stranger**  
Through the story of an ordinary man unwittingly drawn into a senseless murder on an Algerian beach, Camus explores what he termed “the nakedness of man faced with the absurd.”

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.

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.

Danielewski, Mark  
**House of Leaves**  
A young family moves into a house that is larger inside than out. Soon enough the two little children wander off and their voices begin to tell a terrifying story in this brilliant novel, distinguished by its multiplicity of voices and narratives.

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.

di Donato, Pietro  
**Christ in Concrete**  
With its impressionistic style and lyric proletarianism, *Christ in Concrete* (1939) is a seminal work of Italian American literature. It focuses on the harsh economic realities and tenement living that one family experiences through the eyes of a twelve-year-old boy who must support his family after his father’s untimely death.

Diaz, Junot  
**The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao**  
Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But a curse that has haunted Oscar’s family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA, may make it impossible for him to ever get what he wants.

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.

Doxiadis, Apostolos  
**Uncle Petros and Goldbach’s Conjecture**  
A young boy, intrigued by his uncle’s studies in mathematics, discovers his uncle’s obsession with the mathematical hypothesis, Goldbach’s Conjecture.
Dreiser, Theodore
An American Tragedy
A portrait of America’s corrupt value system and its effects on the ambitious and romantic Clyde Griffiths.

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

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.”

Eliot, George
Middlemarch
In the town of Middlemarch, a brilliant and naive woman marries a man old enough to be her father, an ambitious doctor arrives, and an old miser lies on his deathbed. George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans’ pen name) studies all the foibles and revelations of human life.

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.

Englandar, Nathan
The Ministry of Special Cases
The long-awaited first novel by Englandar 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 is his soulmate, and Leonard, the brilliant but brooding man she loves.

Farah, Nuruddin
Links
Links tells the challenging and gripping story of Jeebleh, a man returning to his hometown of Mogadiscio, Somalia, for the first time in twenty years. Diverted from his pilgrimage to visit his mother’s grave, he is asked to investigate the abduction of a young girl and becomes entangled in the violent politics of a city decimated by American intervention.

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
This Side of Paradise
A classic of the Lost Generation, this novel explores the lives of young people growing up in the shadow of WWI. It follows the life of Armory Blaine, a lackadaisical Princeton professor, and speaks to the avarice and striving of post-war America.

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 1920s.

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 (or perhaps misunderstood) monster of the original.

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 and escapes the oppressive system in which she is trapped.

Godden, Rumer
Black Narcissus
Five nuns, engaged in missionary work high in the Himalayas, succumb to the sensuality and mystery of their surroundings.
Greenwell, Garth  
**What Belongs to You**  
In Sofia, a teacher from the American South meets Mitko, a beautiful young man. Mitko is a sex worker, and he and the teacher begin a complicated, messy, and heartbreaking relationship. This lyrical, erotic novel grapples with love, queer identities, and desire.

Haggard, H. Rider  
**King Solomon’s Mines**  
Dramatic romance and adventure in Central Africa in quest of King Solomon’s Ophir. Sensational fights, blood-curdling perils, and extraordinary escapes.

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.

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.

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; 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.

Jackson, Shirley  
**We Have Always Lived in the Castle**  
Merricat and Constance Blackwood live in a manor at the edge of a small village. Despised and mistrusted by the townsfolk for a horrific event that occurred prior to the events of the novel, the sisters live in tranquil isolation, until cousin Charles arrives and forms a relationship with Constance.

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.”

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 masterfully explores humanity and corruption.

Kazantzakis, Nikos  
**Zorba the Greek**  
With 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.

Kesey, Ken  
**One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest**  
Alternating between dark humor and psychological torment, this novel is set in an Oregon psychiatric hospital, where the narrator, “Chief” Bromden, observes the increasingly erratic exploits of Randall Patrick Murphy, a patient who lied his way into the hospital, and the sadistic Nurse Ratched.

Koestler, Arthur  
**Thieves in the Night**  
A powerful book detailing the struggles of a group of ambitious Jews as they attempt to establish a commune in the Palestine of the 1940s. Based on Koestler’s own experiences.

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

Kundera, Milan  
**The Unbearable Lightness of Being**  
In the midst of the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, a young physician is torn between two women: his wife and a free-spirited sensualist.

Kushner, Rachel  
**The Mars Room**  
Romy Hall is serving two life sentences in a woman’s prison for a crime she committed while working at The Mars Room, a San Francisco strip club. Part crime odyssey, part sociological study of life behind bars.
Lagerkvist, Par
Barabbas
A powerful novel by a Nobel Prize winner about “the acquitted,” Barabbas, whose life was exchanged for Jesus’s.

Lee, Min Jin
Free Food for Millionaires
As Casey navigates Manhattan, we see her life and the lives of those around her: her sheltered mother and scarred father who are first generation Korean immigrants, her friend Ella who’s always been the good Korean girl, Ella’s ambitious Korean husband and his Caucasian mistress, Casey’s white fiancé, and then her Korean boyfriend, all culminating in a portrait of New York City and its world of have-nots.

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

Lindsay, Joan
Picnic at Hanging Rock
At a boarding school for girls everything seems well-mannered, until that image is shattered by the disappearance of four students from a school picnic, a mystery that winds through the lives of many and questions privilege.

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.

Luiselli, Valeria
The Story of my Teeth
While auctioning off old teeth that he claims belong to Plato, Virginia Woolf, Borges, and others, Gustavo (Highway) Sánchez Sánchez’s life turns upside down as he falls into a magical whirlwind of personal and global history.

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.

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.

McEwen, Ian
Atonement
13-year-old Briony Tallis tells a lie. Set against the backdrop of WWII, this novel follows the criminal, heartbreaking and life-changing consequences of that lie.

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.

McMurtry, Larry
Lonesome Dove
A western epic about a cattle drive, love, loneliness, and a Comanche anti-hero 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.

Mistry, Rohinton
A Fine Balance
The story of five individuals living in India who must follow its repressive caste system and navigate the corrupt 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 Native American 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. A comedic look into what was left out.
Morrison, Toni
Beloved
Inspired by true events, this lyrical novel follows Sethe—a woman who has escaped slavery—as she and her family grapple with the terrible, haunting choice she was forced to make years earlier.

Murakami, Haruki
The Wild Sheep Chase
A young advertising executive receives a postcard from a friend, and casually appropriates the image for an insurance company's advertisement. What he doesn't realize is that included in the pastoral scene is a mutant sheep, which has captured the attention of a man in black who offers a menacing ultimatum: find the sheep or face dire consequences. Thus begins a surreal and elaborate quest: a truly wild sheep chase.

Ng, Celeste
Little Fires Everywhere
Beginning at the end, Isabelle Richardson burns down her family home. Ng invites readers to enter the town of Shaker Heights, a planned community where everything was always designed to happen as expected. That is, until Mia Warren and her daughter Pearl enter the lives of the Richardsons.

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 using pictures and verse.

Obreht, Tea
The Tiger's Wife
Natalia, a doctor in the Balkans, has been shaped by two things: war and her grandfather. But when her grandfather dies 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 at 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 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.

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

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
The captivating depiction of a 15-year-old girl, Tamar, deciphering the contents of a box she inherited from Grandfather. The story switches between 1944 Nazi occupied Holland, and the present as Tamar decodes a series of clues and coded messages her Grandfather left her.

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.

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.

Pynchon, Thomas
The Crying of Lot 49
Funny, ironic, erotic, and bizarre, this short but dense novel is the best introduction to Pynchon's work.

Rand, Ayn
The Fountainhead
A 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.
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.

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.

Slimani, Leila
The Perfect Nanny
This short, propulsive novel begins at the end with the horrific murder-suicide of Myriam’s small children by their nanny Louise. What unfolds is a claustrophobic story of the intersections between class, race, and gender told through the lenses of Myriam and Louise's interior lives.

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr
In The First Circle
Gulag inmates staff a Soviet technical institute, and these scientists are favored over the other prisoners. One inmate reports this injustice, and the narrative follows the hunt for the exposé.

Stegner, Wallace
Angle of Repose
Stegner wrote this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel weaving together the stories of several generations of a family who experienced the grandeur, challenges and joys of settling in the American West where the geography itself played a role in shaping its people.

Steinbeck, John
East of Eden
Steinbeck’s masterpiece, a sprawling novel that retells Genesis in the American West. An essential story of good and evil, California, fatherhood, brothers, and free will.

Stendhal
The Red and the Black
This introspective novel, translated from the French, traces the dazzling rise and fall of the ambitious Julien Sorel.

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 Brobdingnagians; from mad scientists to snooty horses.
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 tale 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.

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.

Ward, Jesmyn
Sing, Unburied, Sing
This modern gothic novel set in Mississippi is full of ghosts, painful family legacies, and fractious race relations.

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.

West, Nathanael
Miss Lonelyhearts
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
Huckleberry Finn
An classic of American literature, this novel is an uproariously funny account of the misadventures of Huckleberry Finn as well as a trenchant social satire. In the antebellum South, Huck runs away with Jim, an enslaved man, and the two of them navigate the bizarre and dangerous waters of the Mississippi River.

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.
Atwood, Margaret
Alias Grace
Grace Marks has been convicted of brutally murdering her employer and his housekeeper. Some believe her innocent, others believe Grace is an evil woman. Simon Jordan, an expert in the newly flourishing field of “Alienism” (the study of mental illness) begins meeting with Grace to determine why she can’t remember the crimes of which she was convicted. Based on the real-life 1843 murders of Thomas Kinnear and Nancy Montgomery in Canada, Atwood explores the role of women in Victorian society.

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.

Benioff, David
City of Thieves
Set during the Nazi’s siege of Leningrad, two unlikely companions narrowly avoid execution by agreeing to complete an impossible task: secure a dozen eggs for a Soviet officer’s daughter’s wedding cake. Game of Thrones showrunner David Benioff delivers at once a historical thriller and coming-of-age story.

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.

Brown, Dan
Origin

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.

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 for the famous painter Vermeer.

Cornwell, Bernard
The Last Kingdom
“We like Game of Thrones, but real.” The first in an exciting series of historical novels depicting ninth-century England facing invasions from the Danes and nearly losing, until one king remains to resist.
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.

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.

Doer, Anthony

**All the Light We Cannot See**

This beautifully written Pulitzer Prize winner and National Book Award finalist follows parallel lives of two young people during WW II. Marie-Laure LeBlanc is blind and lives in Paris with her father, who aids the resistance. Werner Pfennig, an orphaned boy, is offered a place at a Nazi school.

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.

Eco, Umberto

**The Name of the Rose**

Intrigue, murder, theology, and semiotics lead to mystery in a fourteenth-century Italian monastery.

Edugyan, Esi

**Washington Black**

Enslaved in Barbados, eleven-year-old Washington “Wash” Black’s life changes forever when his master’s eccentric brother Christopher “Titch” Wilde chooses Wash as his manservant. A naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor and abolitionist, Wilde spirits Wash away from the plantation when a man is killed and Wash is blamed. Their flight leads them up the eastern coast of America to the remote Arctic landscape, upon which Wash and Titch are separated and Wash must forge a new life for himself.

Jennifer Egan

**Manhattan Beach**

One of the best selling novels of 2017, Jennifer Egan’s *Manhattan Beach* is her first historical novel. Meticulously researched and gorgeously written, *Manhattan Beach* weaves a fascinating tale about America’s first women divers in the figure of the protagonist Anna Kerrigan.

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 Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Follett, Ken

**Pillars of the Earth Series**


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.

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.

George, Margaret

**The Memoirs of Cleopatra**

Cleopatra does everything she can to keep her beloved country out of trouble. With a little luck and a lot of courage, she struggles on to become one of the most famous Egyptian pharaohs.

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 Book of Intimate Grammar**

Against the backdrop of Israel’s Six Days War, Grossman portrays a physically delayed Aron Kleinfeld, an adult whose mind is trapped in a twelve-year-old boy’s body.

Gyasi, Yaa

**Homegoing**

Beginning in eighteenth-century Ghana, Gyasi follows the paths of two half sisters and their descendants across three centuries and two continents. As one side of the family is sold into American slavery, the other remains in Ghana, navigating decades of warfare between the Asante and Fante, as well as British colonization. Each chapter follows a different descendant at a specific point in their life as it’s dictated by historical forces, providing the reader with unforgettable characters and a memorable tale of families torn apart and mended back together.
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.

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

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, Catherine 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.

Mistry, Rohinton  
A Fine Balance  
India in 1975. A state-declared emergency causes four strangers to cross paths and reside in a single apartment. Set during the turmoil of The Emergency, Rohinton explores the unlikely bonds created between four very different characters.

Némirovsky, Irène  
Suite Française  
This recently discovered novel by a displaced Parisian and victim of the Holocaust recounts the fall of Paris and the harsh realities of war from the civilian’s perspective.

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. 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.

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

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

Toibin, Colm  
Brooklyn  
Eilis moves to Brooklyn from her small Irish village in order to find work. As she settles into a boarding house and a department store job, Eilis struggles with a non-stop ache for home. Just when she finds love, Eilis is called back to Ireland because of a sudden tragedy. Amidst her grief, Eilis must decide where home is.

Towles, Amor  
A Gentleman in Moscow  
A Russian aristocrat has lost his standing amidst the rise of communism in Russia and is now placed under house arrest in a grand hotel for the crime of “treason”. The story displays the vibrant characters he meets and how he uses his time in the hotel to come to terms with his situation.

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.

Wong, David H.T.  
Escape to Gold Mountain  
This is a graphic history of the Chinese in America (“Gold Mountain”) told through the Wong family. It covers 150 years of their struggle for acceptance.

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.
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. Fun fact: Beecher’s father, Lyman, was a member of Hopkins class of 1791.

Bauer, Shane  
**American Prison**  
The journalist Shane Bauer goes undercover for four months as a guard in a for-profit Louisiana prison, and reports on his findings.

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 authors give a thorough look at the scientist’s troubled life after the bomb was dropped.

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.

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. Boo’s work reads like fiction—and her unforgettable characters all nurture far-fetched dreams of a better life.

Brown, Daniel James  
**The Boys in the Boat**  
A moving story of the power of hard work and trust, this book is a masterfully written piece that combines a history of the Great Depression, World War I and the sport of rowing through the experiences of the main character Joe.

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.

Carreyrou, John  
**Bad Blood**  
It’s scammer season! Elizabeth Holmes successfully founded a multibillion dollar startup company that was based on... nothing. Holmes captured the hearts (and wallets) of Silicon Valley when she promised to revolutionize medical technology; the problem was the technology needed to deliver on her vision does not exist. Undaunted, Holmes defrauded high-profile investors while simultaneously fostering a culture of fear and intimidation inside Theranos headquarters. Carreyrou delivers a detailed and riveting cautionary tale of the greed and ambition driving the 21st century American economy.

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.

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

Chong, Denise  
**The Girl in the Picture**  
On June 8, 1972, a nine-year-old South Vietnamese girl was napalmed by a misplaced American air strike. This book describes the events leading up to and following June 8th.
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.

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.

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 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.

Gawande, Atul  
Being Mortal
Gawande is a surgeon who was compelled to write this book when he realized that our unwillingness to acknowledge death as a part of life leads us to make poor decisions about our health care as we grow older.

Gladwell, Malcolm  
Outliers: The Story of Success
Ever wondered why planes crash or how Bill Gates became so successful? Gladwell explores the reasons behind 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.

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.

Demick, Barbara  
Nothing to Envy
Journalist Barbara Demick follows the lives of six North Koreans over a fifteen year period, inviting readers into a dystopic world where the United States is blamed for power outages, informants are rewarded, and individuals spend the entirety of their lives in prison camps for “crimes” committed by their forebears. As Demick’s subjects fall in love, start families, and struggle to survive, each is forced to reckon with the full extent of their government’s betrayal.

di Giovanni, Janine  
The Morning They Came For Us
Written by award-winning journalist Janine di Giovanni, The Morning They Came For Us bears witness to one of the most brutal conflicts in recent history, all told through the perspective of ordinary people from exceedingly different backgrounds.

Dolnick, Edward  
The Rush: America’s Fevered Quest for Fortune 1848–1853
A modern and updated retelling of the wild world that was the California Gold Rush.

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.

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.

Fink, Sheri  
Five Days At Memorial
During Hurrican Katrina, the individuals in Memorial Medical Center spent five days without power and minimal assistance from disaster relief support. During that time, physicians and caregivers ranked patients for rescue, and months later were accused of deliberately injecting patients with drugs that would hasten their deaths. Journalist and physician Sherri Fink reconstructs the events at Memorial Medical and reveals issues surrounding end-of-life care and America’s lack of preparedness for large-scale disasters.
Holiday, Ryan  
**Trust Me, I’m Lying: Confessions of a Media Manipulator**  
This book discusses Ryan Holiday’s time as a media strategist for a number of leading authors and brands. This book exposes the flaws of our online news cycle and how individuals can manipulate it. In a world where “fake news” is a buzz word, this is a must-read.

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.

Junger, Sebastian  
**The Perfect Storm**  
The storm hit with no warning, and the author describes what it feels like to be caught on a fishing boat, powerless, 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.

Keefe, Patrick Radden  
**Say Nothing**  
Chronicling “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland, Keefe crafts an exemplar of narrative nonfiction. The murder of Jean McConville, a Belfast widow and mother of ten, is used as a prism through which to view the conflict, creating a gripping account that is simultaneously a mystery, a novel, and a meticulously-researched work of nonfiction.

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

Hofstadter, Douglas R.  
**Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid**  
The worlds of science, art, language, and mathematics come together in this intellectual tour de force.

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.

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.

Harrington, Michael  
**The Other American**  
An impressive survey of the depressing landscape of poverty in America.

Hatch, Steven  
**Inferno: A Doctor’s Ebola Story**  
*Inferno* tells the tale of an infectious disease specialist, Dr. Hatch, and his experiences fighting Ebola in Liberia. Dr. Hatch details his encounters and gives the reader an indepth look into Ebola as a disease and its spread.

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, argues that religion is man-made and immoral.
Maier, Pauline
American Scripture
While many can quote parts of the Declaration of Independence by heart, it was not always so revered. Maier tells the story of the not-so-easy creation of the Declaration, including the struggles of Thomas Jefferson. She also describes how Abraham Lincoln elevated the document to its current status as part of our nation's "scripture."

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.

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.

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.

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 casino private investigators.

Millard, Candice
Hero of the Empire
Millard is once again able to make history read with the excitement of good fiction. In this case, it is the story of Winston Churchill’s activity as a journalist during the Boer War in South Africa, including his daring escape from captivity.

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  
**Valiant Ambition**  
In this work, Philbrick focuses on the middle period of the American War for Independence. Benedict Arnold played a remarkable role in several American victories, but he felt unappreciated. George Washington tried several times to assuage Arnold’s wounded pride and frustration, but Arnold’s ambition proved too strong in the end.

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.

Roth, Alvin  
**Who Gets What And Why**  
Nobel laureate Alvin E. Roth reveals the “matching markets” hidden around us, like the college application process, and shows us how to recognize a good match and make smarter, more confident decisions.

Salzman, Mark  
**Iron & Silk**  
A young American teacher tells of his experiences in China during the early 1980s, 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.

Shavit, Ari  
**My Promised Land**  
Shavit immerses the reader in the conflicts and dilemmas of Israel, offering a critical and nuanced look at the country, its history, its people, and the future of the region.

Shilts, Randy  
**And the Band Played On**  
A powerful account of scientists’ and politicians’ willful indifference to the spread of AIDS.

Spence, Jonathan  
**The Search for Modern China**  
The British historian portrays China’s history from the fall of the Ming Dynasty to present day.

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

Telander, Rich  
**Heaven Is a Playground**  
Basketball games played in big arenas may draw the headlines, but the heart and soul of the game are still found on the playgrounds and schoolyards of the inner city. An unforgettable look at friendships, frustrations and dreams in 1970s Brooklyn.

Thaler, Richard  
**Nudge**  
We like to believe we make rational decisions, but Thaler shows that we most often make poor ones. He urges a sort of “paternal libertarianism” to offer limited choices framed by knowledgable, well-intentioned experts for the masses.

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.

Tougias, Michael J.  
**Overboard**  
The riveting narrative of a sudden, monstrous storm at sea and the miraculous coast guard rescue of Loch Reidy, a former Hopkins parent, 20 hours after he was washed overboard.

Treuer, David  
**The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee**  
A thoughtful and deeply-researched account of Native history, woven together from interviews, public policy, historical documents, and memoirs. An essential look at an alternate American history.

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.
Whitaker, Robert  
**The Mapmaker’s Wife**  
Set in eighteenth-century Latin America, French scientists are trying to measure a line of longitude at the equator. One scientist marries a local woman, and when they become separated, she sets off on an amazing journey across the jungle to find him.

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.

Bakewell, Sarah  
**How to Live: Or A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer**  
A delightful combination of excerpts and modern reflections of how someone might apply the writings of this sixteenth-century philosopher to modern times. Montaigne lived amidst religious and societal turmoil and yet was somehow able to maintain a balanced view of life.

Blackburn, Simon  
**Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy**  
A conversational, introductory approach to many of the “big questions” addressed by philosophers. Blackburn uses modern analogies and examples to help make this a lively and engaging work for folks interested in dipping into philosophy.

Cathcart, Thomas and Daniel Klein  
**Plato and a Platypus Walk Into a Bar**  
Cathcart and Klein use humorous anecdotes to illustrate various philosophical ideas and concepts.

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 appreciate what we have? How can we strengthen our connection to others and face suffering in our lives?

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

Gaardner, Jostein  
**Sophie’s World**  
A Norwegian teenage girl is prompted by two mysterious notes, “Who are you?” and “Where does the world come from?” to begin an exploration of the history of philosophy. (Not to be confused with *Sophie’s Choice*).

Holiday, Ryan  
**The Obstacle Is the Way**  
Ryan Holiday discusses the Roman philosophy of stoicism through historical anecdotes from athletics, politics, entrepreneurship, and the military.

James, William  
**Pragmatism**  
A uniquely American take on philosophy and logic, which demonstrates that it is the pragmatist who, guided by the experience of the senses and the working body of truth each person carries, is able to apply abstract philosophical ideas directly into his or her own life.

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.

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.

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, Miyatomo  
**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.
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.

Sandel, Michael J.
Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?
Using modern examples to illustrate philosophical theories, Sandel crafts a witty, entertaining, and informative chronicle history of philosophy.

Sartre, Jean-Paul
Existentialism and Human Emotions
Sartre suggests the philosophical notion that we live in a universe without purpose, and that we can make meaning only through exercising our free will.

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 “t’ai” (often translated as “the way”) and its omnipresence in life.

Warburton, Nigel
A Little History of Philosophy
Divided into forty brief chapters, each focused on an influential philosopher, A Little History of Philosophy provides an accessible narrative of philosophical concepts, spanning Plato to Singer and everything in between.

Bishop, Elizabeth
The Complete Poems: 1927–1979
Bishop’s witty, reticent, and beautiful poetry focuses on her visions for and impressions of the world around her.

Chekhov, Anton
The Cherry Orchard
Generally acknowledged as Chekhov’s best play, this story of Russian lethargy, sadness, and ennui actually pulsates with wit, charm, and love.

Churchill, Caryl
Top Girls
Premiering in 1982 and a classic of contemporary theatre, Churchill’s play Top Girls is seen as a landmark for a new generation of playwrights. Marlene hosts a dinner party in a London restaurant to celebrate a promotion and invites 5 influential and brilliant women from history. The author forces these women into the context of their less brilliant sisters’ timeless struggle against poverty and oppression.

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.

Eliot, T.S.
Collected Poems
Poetry about spiritual emptiness and other amusing topics. Difficult, but worth it.

Frost, Robert
The Poetry of Robert Frost
(Edward Connery Lathem, ed.)
This book brings together for the first time the full contents of all eleven of Frost’s individual books of verse, from A Boy’s Will through In the Clearing.

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.

Giovanni, Nikki
Singer, activist and poet Nikki Giovanni is one of the pre-eminent African American artists alive today. This collection is an indespensible introduction to her work.

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.

Homer
*The Odyssey*
Robert Fagles does a beautiful job translating this classic tale of a great trickster’s epic ten year journey home.

Ibsen, Henrik
*Hedda Gabler*
Hedda is a beautiful, imperious woman trapped in a mediocre marriage to a mediocre man. When her long-lost love returns, she masterminds a series of destructive events in pursuit of the thing she most values: one beautiful act.

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.

Molière
*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 seventeenth-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.
Nye, Naomi Shihab

19 Varieties of Gazelle
Nye is an contemporary award-winning poet who draws from her experience as an German/Arab-American who grew up in the American Midwest. This collection of poems about the Middle East was published shortly after the destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001.

Oliver, Mary

A Thousand Mornings
A collection of poems set in the coastline and in the marshlands of Provincetown, MA, Oliver uses its natural beauty to explore the wonder of our everyday lives with clarity, humor, and kindness.

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.

Pirandello, Luigi

Naked Masks
Pirandello, one of the most celebrated and fascinating dramatists of the twentieth century, won the Nobel Prize in 1934. The volume Naked Masks contains five of his plays that best comment on the conflict between illusion and reality, and modern existential isolation.

Powell, Patricia Hruby

Loving vs. Virginia
In 1955, in Caroline County, Virginia, amidst segregation and prejudice, injustice and cruelty, two teenagers fell in love. Richard and Mildred Loving were at the heart of a Supreme Court case that legalized marriage between races, and a story of the devoted couple who faced discrimination, fought it, and won. The entire story is written in verse.

Pushkin, Alexander

Eugene Onegin
Pushkin's novel in verse follows the emotions and destiny of four characters—Onegin the bored fop, Lensky the minor elegiast, and a stylized Pushkin himself; Tatyana the provincial beauty. Engaging, full of suspense, and varied in tone, it goes on many literary, philosophical, and autobiographical digressions, often in a highly satirical vein.

Rankine, Claudia

Citizen
A powerful blend of poetry, prose and criticism that grapples with the invisible and visible racism in modern America. Questions what it means to be a citizen in a country plagued by bloody racial discord beneath the harmful illusion of unity.

Rilke, Rainer Maria

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

Rose, Reginald

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

Rostand, Edmond

Cyrano de Bergerac
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 as “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.

Soldier, Layli Long

Whereas
A genre-bending text that incorporates prose poems, narratives, and verse to confront the United States government's treatment of indigenous peoples. Caught between being a citizen of the United States and a member of Oglala Sioux Tribe, Soldier investigates the tension between who she is, and the identity forced upon her by her country.
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 + 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.

Bechdel, Alison
*Fun Home*
Told in graphic novel form, Alison Bechdel uses her own coming of age story to explore her father's sexuality and tackle the uncomfortable truth of his relationships with far younger men.

Brittain, Vera
*Testament of Youth*
A memoir and an elegy for the lives lost in WWI, Brittain tells the story of her time as military nurse. A seminal memoir, this book paved the way for future writers grappling with loss, war, and what happens to those who survive.

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 illness. She wakes up with no memory of the past month and is diagnosed with encephalitis, which causes her delusions, violent outbreaks, and psychotic episodes.
Chang, Jung

Wild Swans
Spanning four generations, Jung Chang tells the story of her matrilineal line and her own eyewitness account of Mao's China. From the time of the warlords to the late 20th century, this engrossing memoir imparts an incomparable historical understanding.

Cleaver, Eldridge

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

Coates, Ta-Nehisi

Between the World and Me
In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates attempts to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. He shares the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

DeSalvo, Louise

Vertigo: A Memoir
Louise DeSalvo is relentless in identifying the failure of the American Dream for so many immigrants and for working-class people. She maintains a keen awareness of being an outsider, of being the working-class intellectual and writer who must constantly confront herself with a family legacy of trauma and disappointment.

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.

Fey, Tina

Bossypants
Fey wasn’t always Liz Lemon or an SNL legend, she once was a nerdy kid with a recurring dream of being chased through an airport by her middle school gym teacher. Laugh out loud and uncover how Fey earned her bossy status.

Fisher, Antwone Q.

Finding Fish: A Memoir
This autobiography eloquently shows how one young man can transform himself from a neglected and abused foster child into a successful and influential artist and author.

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.

Gay, Roxanne

Hunger
An unimaginable act of sexual violence served as a turning point when Roxane Gay was a young girl. Gay explores her complex struggles with food, weight, self-image, and why she ate to make herself safe. Gay brings readers in close contact with the joy and despair of her past and present, begging the question, “What does it mean to be overweight in a time when the bigger you are, the less you are seen?”

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 70s 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 Muhammad, the Black Muslim and his journey to Mecca, which occasioned his eventual break with Muhammad.

Hemingway, Ernest

A Moveable Feast
Composed retrospectively, Hemingway’s memoir details his experiences as a young expatriate in Paris during the 1920s. As Hemingway struggled with his writing and marriage, he moved through the post-World War I city with other famous voices of the Lost Generation.

Hornby, Nick

Fever Pitch
Even if you call it soccer, you will enjoy Hornby’s passionate chronicle of his lifelong obsession with football. This critically-acclaimed memoir is for anyone whose experienced the ecstatic highs and devastating lows of being a sports superfan.

Karr, Mary

The Liar's Club
At once poetic and astonishingly witty, this memoir tells the story of a young Texas girl growing up by the seat of her pants.
Levi, Primo  
*Survival in Auschwitz*  
The author’s vivid account of ten months spent in Auschwitz during World War II.

McCourt, Frank  
*Angela’s Ashes*  
The riveting and appalling story of a family’s absolute devastation amid the squalor and poverty of Ireland, told with brutal honesty and, miraculously, with fine humor.

Miller, Chanel  
*Know My Name*  
*Know My Name* will forever transform the way we think about sexual assault, challenging our beliefs about what is acceptable and speaking truth to the tumultuous reality of healing.

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

Moody, Anne  
*A Coming of Age in Mississippi*  
In a brutally candid autobiography, Moody portrays her life in the American South of the 1940s and 1950s.

Noah, Trevor  
*Born a Crime*  
Trevor Noah tells his story as a multiracial child growing up in apartheid South Africa. Both funny and thoughtful, Noah addresses the legacy of apartheid while finding the humor in his experiences.

Northup, Solomon  
*12 Years a Slave*  
Solomon Northup narrates the 12-year struggle to escape slavery after being kidnapped in 1841. Solomon recalls people, places, and events that became important during his long captivity.

Obama, Barack  
*Dreams From My Father*  
This is Barack Obama’s memoir, with a declared politics of location as the son of a black African father and a white American mother. Raised in a single mother household, Obama searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black man with a divided inheritance.

Obama, Michelle  
*Becoming*  
The first African-American First Lady of the United States looks back on the most formative and meaningful experiences of her life. From the South Side of Chicago to Washington DC, Obama shares the intimate and political details of her life story.

Plath, Sylvia  
*The Bell Jar*  
In this novel, the famous poet tells her own story of the suffocations of sexism, provincialism, and mental illness that imperiled her growth and talent.

Rodriguez, Richard  
*Hunger of Memory*  
A beautiful and reflective study of the ambiguous value of an American education for a talented Mexican-American.

Scott, Janny  
*The Beneficiary*  
The tale of five generations of a Philadelphia family: their successes and failures, trials tribulations and romances. The influence of inheritance and the end of an era take center stage in this poignant memoir of Scott’s own father.

Smith, Patti  
*Just Kids*  
As he was dying, artist Robert Mapplethorpe made musician and artist Patti Smith promise to write the story of their friendship and love. It was years later when Smith finally put pen to paper and told the remarkable story of two “kids” and their time in 1960s and 70s New York City.

Stutzman, Paul  
*Hiking Through*  
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.

Twain, Mark  
*Life on the Mississippi*  
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.

Van DeVanter, Lynda  
*Home Before Morning*  
A nurse tells her moving and often horrifying story of medical service in Vietnam during the war.

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*  
Born in 1909 in Jackson, Mississippi, Welty sketches her autobiography and tells us how her family and her surroundings contributed to the shaping not only of her personality but of her writing.
Westover, Tara  
**Educated**  
Tara Westover was born into an isolated, survivalist family in rural Idaho. This is the story of her eccentric family as well as her personal fight for education. After stepping foot in a classroom for the first time at age seventeen, Westover went on to attend Oxford and Harvard.

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.

Williams, Patricia  
**Rabbit**  
In her memoir, comedian Patricia Williams offers a healthy dose of humor alongside the sharp reality of growing up poor, black, and on the margins of American society. Raised in Atlanta during the height of the crack epidemic, sixteen-year-old “Rabbit” was determined to create a better life for her two children, but her options were limited. Rabbit turned inward, relying on humor and hustling as her only tools of survival.

Wright, Richard  
**Black Boy**  
Wright’s famous autobiography details his coming-of-age in the Jim Crow South.

**MYSTERY**

Abbott, Megan  
**You Will Know Me**  
The Knox family devotes their lives to the success of fifteen-year-old Devon, a promising gymnast. As an important competition approaches, a sudden death in the gymnastics community threatens the Knoxes and Devon’s success. Amidst rumors, allegations, and half-revealed secrets, Katie Knox vacilates between protecting her daughter’s ambitions and uncovering the truth.

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.

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.”

French, Tana  
**In the Woods**  
When Detectives Rob Ryan and Cassie Maddox are called to investigate the murder of a 12-year-old girl, Ryan is startled to find that the crime took place in the same woods where, years earlier, his childhood friends disappeared. As Maddox and Ryan probe the secrets surrounding the murder victim, the twists and turns of the case take Ryan down the long-avoided path of his past.

French, Tana  
**The Witch Elm**  
Toby is a carefree, and careless, 20-something breezing through life until a violent burglary leaves him broken. In the aftermath, Toby’s Uncle Hugo offers refuge at the family’s Irish country home. A gruesome discovery in the ancestral home leads to an investigation that forces Toby to question everything he thought he knew.

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.

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, in the middle of a Cold War, but in order to do so, he must uncover the truth about his former colleagues and his own failing marriage.

Palmer, Stuart  
**The Puzzle of the Happy Hooligan**  
Hildegard Withers, an amateur sleuth, finds herself in Hollywood, advising on a script about the notorious murderer Lizzie Borden. But beneath the razzle-dazzle of tinsel town, a real-life murderer might be picking off screenwriters for reasons that Hildegard must try and discover.
Butler, Octavia
Kindred
Dana, an African-American woman, lives in 1976 California, but just after celebrating her 26th birthday, she is wrenched back in time to Antebellum Maryland. After saving a slave-owner’s son from drowning, Dana returns to her present time. Repeatedly, Dana is pulled back in time to save the life of the same white man, endangering her life while trying to cement her own survival. Butler’s complex novel is a cornerstone of science fiction and black literature.

Clarke, Arthur C.
Childhood’s End
Superior beings from outer space take over the earth in this famous science fiction novel.

Cline, Ernest
Ready Player One
In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place and the only time teenager Wade Watts really feels alive is when he’s jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade’s devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world’s digital confines that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. After he discovers the first clue, the race is on, and if he’s going to survive, he’ll have to win.

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.

El Akkad, Omar
American War
A Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074, and Sarat Chestnut is forced into the Camp Patience refugee camp when her father is killed. The coastline is under water, South Carolina is a restricted zone, oil is banned, and America is no longer a world power. As Sarat navigates her dangerous circumstances, she is targeted by a mysterious stranger who sees a capability in Sarat that will have devastating consequences for her family and the wider world.

Gibson, William
Neuromancer
Henry Dorsett Case was the sharpest data-thief in the business—until a vengeful ex-employer crippled his nervous system. Now a mysterious new employer has recruited him for a last-chance run. The target: an unthinkably powerful artificial intelligence orbiting Earth.

Pamuk, Orhan
My Name is Red
A murder mystery set against the backdrop of sixteenth-century Istanbul. When an artist commissioned by the sultan disappears, clues to the artist’s whereabouts seem to reside in the images themselves.

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.

Tey, Josephine
Brat Farrar
A young man steals the identity of his dead twin and impersonates him as a horse farmer in the English countryside.

SCIENCE FICTION + FANTASY

Asimov, Isaac
I, Robot
By blurring the line between robots and humans, the author explores the meaning of humanity.

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

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.

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.
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.

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.

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
The Way of Kings
This masterpiece immerses the reader in a fully realized world shaped by the hurricane-force storms that regularly sweep the continent from East to West. The book focuses on three characters: a surgeon turned soldier turned slave who has been sold into an occupation that means certain death, a warlord who has become more peaceful in recent years and is now beginning to doubt his sanity, and a young woman who has concocted an audacious plan to win an apprenticeship under an eminent scholar in order to steal her prospective master’s greatest treasure and save her family from its debts.

Schwab, V.E.
A Darker Shade of Magic
Kell is one of the last Antari—magicians with the rare ability to travel between four parallel Londons. Officially, he serves the Maresh Empire as an ambassador, traveling between them. Unofficially, Kell is a smuggler servicing people willing to pay for even the smallest glimpses of a world they’d usually never see.

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.
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.

Tolkien, J.R.R.  
**The Lord of the Rings**  
In this classic fantasy trilogy, a hobbit named Frodo Baggins must embark on a dangerous quest through Middle-earth to destroy the One Ring and keep the evil Sauron from rising to power.

Valente, Catherynne M.  
**In the Night Garden**  
A modern homage to the Arabian Nights, this novel is full of twisting, magical tales told by a lonely girl to a mysterious prince. A book that celebrates myths and fairtales, and investigates our motivations for telling stories.

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.

Wu, Chixhin  
**The Three Body Problem**  
Set against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution, a secret military project sends signals into space to establish contact with aliens. An alien civilization on the brink of destruction captures the signal and plans to invade Earth. Meanwhile, on Earth, different camps start forming, planning to either welcome the superior beings and help them take over a world seen as corrupt, or to fight against the invasion.

**SHORT STORIES + ESSAYS**

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi  
**We Should All Be Feminists**  
Adapted from her TEDx talk of the same name, Adichie's short essay explores feminism in the 21st century, providing a revolutionary definition and outlook. Discussing how the gender divide harms men and women alike, Adichie roots feminism in inclusion and focuses on the institutionalized sexism, misogyny, and discrimination that harms women around the world.

Baldwin, James  
**James Baldwin's Collected Essays**  
Baldwin's essays are prophetic, insightful and vital. He explores the Black American experience with a poet's eye and a philosopher's mind, addressing subjects that range from faith to politics.

Barrett, Andrea  
**Ship Fever**  
This collection merges the concrete, quantifiable world of science with the murkier realm of human emotion. Each story examines a different period in scientific history through the sensitive portrayal of individual characters.

Berlin, Lucinda  
**A Manual for Cleaning Women**  
43 unconventional yet beautifully written stories that offer detailed portraits of the lives of working-class women. Poignant and sometimes comic depictions of hard-living women and what life is like on the rougher edges.

Borges, Jorge L.  
**Labyrinths**  
A collection of short stories featuring real and fictitious criminals.

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 1940s.

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.

Dinesen, Isak  
**Seven Gothic Tales**  
Eerie and sharp-tongued, these gothic tales are full of monkey paws and curses, floods and witches. Dinesen reveals the strange and winding passages of the human soul.
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 admiring fans asked for more.

Gay, Roxanne
*Bad Feminist*
With prodigious bravery and eviscerating humor, Roxane Gay takes on culture and politics in *Bad Feminist*.

Helen, Ellis
*American Housewife*
Ellis reimagines answers to the question, “What do housewives do all day?” In these stories, housewives bake casseroles and clean kitchens, and they also murder party crashers and engage in wars of attrition over hallway paint colors. These darkly humorous stories explore and upend concepts of womanhood and domesticity.

Jamison, Leslie
*The Empathy Exams*
Jamison brings a journalistic rigor to her fascinating subjects, which range from forestry to imagined diseases to intimate chapters of her own experience in this book of essays.

Jhabvala, Ruth Prawer
*At the End of the Century*
An exploration of postcolonial India and its relationship to the British middle class through interconnected short stories. Funny but profound storytelling that reveals the impact of cross-cultural communication.

Johnson, Denis
*Jesus’ Son*
Johnson’s powerful chronicle of addicts, dreamers and lost souls with stories of grief, transcendance and redemption.

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.

Keret, Etgar
*The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God & Other Stories*
Etgar Keret’s short stories are often surreal, hilarious and unexpectedly violent.

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.

Lorde, Audre
*Your Silence Will Not Protect You*
Audre Lorde famously described herself as “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” Here, an essential introduction to the famous activist’s powerful work.

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.

Moore, Lorrie
*Birds of America*
Weaving together sarcastic humor and dark pathos, Lorrie Moore’s collection of twelve stories explores death, illness, and relationship angst with a fine eye for detail and a sharp wit that finds comedy in the unbearable.
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.

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.

Orlean, Susan
**The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup**
Professional clowns, royalty, ice-skaters—Susan Orleans has put together a collection of fascinating profiles of extraordinary people.

Poe, Edgar Allan
**The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Tales**
The master of Gothic literature serves up the best in prematurely buried, unburied, dismembered, disfigured, and variously butchered humans and felines in this collection of horror stories.

Porter, Katherine Anne
**The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter**
The stories in this Pulitzer Prize winning collection are violent, lush, and unsparing in their view of the American South.

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.

Sacks, Oliver
**An Anthropologist on Mars**
Sacks describes seven medical case histories, exploring how neurological conditions can show the inner workings of the human mind.

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.

Solnit, Rebecca
**Men Explain Things to Me**
The titular essay is widely credited with coining the term “mansplaining,” but Solnit’s work extends to many other corners of our culture as well.

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.

Tolentino, Jia
**Trick Mirror**
Tolentino, a New Yorker columnist, writes candid and nuanced arguments about race, feminism, social media, and more in this book of essays for the 21st century.
Notes