**AP READING LIST:**

**Follow these steps when choosing a book:**

1. Preview your selections and choose only readings compatible with your levels of skill and maturity. This list has a wide range for all people!

2. The book title must appear on this list to be approved. No exceptions will be made.

3. **DO NOT read any books with an (R) marking.** These are required in class reading during the school year during the 4 years of AP classes, so they should be avoided.

4. Authors with an \* are pre-20th century writers.

### American Literature

Agee, James *A Death in the Family* Story of loss and heartbreak felt when a young father dies-the story covers the

 hours before and after his death.

Alexie, Sherman *Reservation Blues* revolves around a bluesman's gift of a guitar to a Native American on a reservation

Anaya, Rudy, *Bless Me, Ultima,* the story of Antonio Márez who has a *curandera* named Ultima come live with his family

 when he was 6.

*Tortuga* An adolescent boy enters a hospital for crippled children.

Baldwin, James *Go Tell It On the Mountain* Semi-autobiographical novel about a 14-year-old black youth's religious

 conversion.

*Another Country* tells of the bohemian lifestyle of musicians, writers and other artists living in Greenwich Village in the late 1950s. It portrayed many taboo themes such as bisexuality, interracial couples and extramarital affairs.

Bellamy, Edward *Looking Backward: 2000-1887* Written in 1887 about a young man who travels in time to a utopian

 year 2000, where economic security and a healthy moral environment have reduced crime.

Bellow, Saul *Seize the Day* A son grapples with his love and hate for an unworthy father. *The Adventures of Augie March* Augie March's growth from childhood to a fairly stable maturity. Augie, with his brother Simon and the mentally abnormal George have no father and are brought up by their mother who is losing her eyesight, and a tyrannical grandmother in very humble circumstances in the rough parts of Chicago. Augie drifts from one situation to another in a free-wheeling manner—jobs, women, homes, education and lifestyle.

*--- Beowulf* **(R)** the heroic tale of Beowulf and his battle against the monster Grendel

Bradbury, Ray *Fahrenheit 451* Reading is a crime and firemen burn books in this futuristic society.

Burns, Olive A. , *Cold Sassy Tree* follows the life of Will Tweedy, and explores themes such as religion, death, and social

 taboos when his grandmother dies and his father almost immediately marries a young school teacher.

Butler, Octavia *Kindred*  Having just celebrated her 26th birthday in 1976 California, Dana, an African-American woman,

 is suddenly and inexplicably wrenched through time into antebellum Maryland. After saving a drowning white

boy there, she finds herself staring into the barrel of a shotgun and is transported back to the present just in time to save her life.

\*Butler, Samuel, *The Way of All Flesh* a semi-autobiographical novel which attacks Victorian-era hypocrisy. Written

 between 1873 and 1884, it traces four generations of the Pontifex family.

Cather, Willa *My Antonia* Immigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies. *Oh Pioneers!* tells the story of the Bergsons, a family of Swedish immigrants in the farm country near the fictional town of Hanover, Nebraska, at the turn of the 20th century. The main character, Alexandra Bergson, inherits the family farmland when her father dies, and she devotes her life to making the farm a viable enterprise at a time when other immigrant families are giving up and leaving the prairie. The novel is also concerned with two romantic relationships, one between Alexandra and family friend Carl Linstrum and another between Alexandra's brother Emil and the married Marie Shabata.

Caldwell. Erskine, *Tobacco Road* a family of poor white tenant farmers, the Lesters, are one of the many small Southern cotton farmers estranged by the industrialization of production and the migration into cities. The main character of the novel is Jeeter Lester, an ignorant and sinful man who is redeemed by his love of the land and his faith in the fertility and promise of soil.

Chaucer, Geoffrey *The Canterbury Tales****(R)*** Several travels enter a wager on who can tell the best story as they travel to

 Canterbury.

Cisneros, Sandra *The House on Mango Street*  a collection of vignettes used to describe the growing up of the narrator in the projects. **(R)**

\*Chopin, Kate *The Awakening* **(R)** The story of a New Orleans woman who abandons her husband and children to

 search for love and self-understanding.

Clark, Walter Van Tilburg *The Ox-Bow Incident* When a group of citizens discovers one of their members has been

 murdered by cattle rustlers, they form an illegal posse, pursue the murderers, and lynch them.

Collins, Wilkie, *The Moonstone* Rachel Verinder, a young Englishwoman, inherits a large Indian diamond on her

 eighteenth birthday. It is a legacy from her uncle, a corrupt English army officer who served in India. The diamond

 is of great religious significance as well as being extremely valuable, and three Hindu priests have dedicated their

 lives to recovering it.

\*Cooper, James Fenimore *The Last of the Mohicans* a historical novel set during the French and Indian War

Cormier, Robert *The Chocolate War* Jerry Renault challenges the power structure of his school when he refuses to sell

 chocolates for the annual fundraiser.

\*Crane, Stephen *The Red Badge of Courage* During the Civil War, Henry Fleming joins the army full of romantic

 visions of battle which are shattered by combat.

 *Maggie: A Girl from the Streets* Maggie, a young girl from the Bowery who is driven to unfortunate circumstances

 by poverty and solitude.

Craven, Margaret, *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* A young minister is sent to spend a year in the Canadian wilderness

 with a Kwakiutl Indian tribe. Only the reader knows that he is dying--that this will be his last opportunity to

 understand what life is for and to do something with what is left of his.

Crow Dog, Mary and Richard Erdoes *Lakota Woman*

Mary Crow Dog stands with 2,000 other Native Americans at the site of the Wounded Knee massacre, demonstrating for Native American rights.

Danticat, Edwidge *Breath, Eyes, Memory*  The story begins in Haiti, on Mother's Day, when young Sophie discovers that

she is about to leave the only home she has ever known with her Tante Atie in Croix-des-Rosets, Haiti, to go live with her mother in New York City.

Díaz , Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* Although a work of fiction, the novel is set in New Jersey in the

United States, where Díaz was raised, and it deals with the Dominican Republic experience under dictator Rafael Trujillo.

Doerr, Anthony *All the Light We Cannot See* Set in occupied France during World War II, the novel centers on a blind

 French girl and a German boy whose paths eventually cross.

Dorris, Michael *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* Three generations of Native American women recount their searches for

 identity and love.

Dreiser, Theodore *An American Tragedy* The ambitious but immature Clyde Griffiths, is raised by poor and devoutly

 religious parents who force him to participate in their street missionary work, is anxious to achieve better things.

 *Sister Carrie* The story of an 18-year-old country girl who moves to Chicago and becomes a kept woman

Edwards Kim *The Memorykeeper’s Daughter* when young Norah Henry goes into labor, her husband, Dr. David Henry, must deliver their babies himself, aided only by a nurse. Seeing his daughter's handicap, he instructs the nurse, to take her to a home and later tells Norah, son's twin died at birth. David's deception and Phoebe's absence corrodes her birth family's core over the course of the next 25 years.

Ellison, Ralph *Invisible Man* A black man's search for himself as an individual and as a member of his race and his

 society.

Faulkner, William *As I Lay Dying****(R****),* The Bundren family takes the ripening corpse of Addie, wife and mother, on

 a gruesomely comic journey.

 *The Sound and the Fury* the Compson family, former Southern aristocrats, are struggling to deal with the dissolution of their family and its reputation.

*Light in August* is an exploration of racial conflict in the society of the Southern United States.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott *The Great Gatsby* **(R)** A young man corrupts himself and the American Dream to regain a lost love.

Flagg, Fanny, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Café* An elderly woman helps a middle aged woman find herself

 again through stories of two young women who forge a close bond in the Depression South.

Fowles, John, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* Sarah Woodruff, lives in the coastal town of Lyme Regis, as a disgraced woman, supposedly abandoned by a French naval officer named Varguennes--married, unknown to her, to another woman-- with whom she had supposedly had an affair and who had returned to France.

Gaines, Ernest *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* In her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from

 slavery to the civil rights movement.

 Also by Ernest J Gaines: *A Gathering of Old Men* A white woman named discovers that a Cajun farmer has been

 shot in a black man’s, yard. She and 17 old black men all claim to be responsible for the murder, in an effort to

 protect the guilty party and make things difficult for Sheriff Mapes.

 *A Lesson Before Dying* Jim Crow South is seen through the eyes of a formally educated African American teacher

 who often feels helpless and alienated from his own country In the pre-Civil Rights Era South.

Galsworthy, John, *The Man of Property* chronicles the vicissitudes of the leading members of an upper class British family,

similar to Galsworthy's own. Only a few generations removed from their farmer ancestors, the family members are keenly aware of their status as "new money". The main character, Soames Forsyte, sees himself as a "man of property" by virtue of his ability to accumulate material possessions—but this does not succeed in bringing him pleasure.

Gardner John *Grendel* The first and most terrifying monster in English literature, from the great early epic *Beowulf*, tells his

own side of the story in this frequently banned book. This classic and much lauded retelling of *Beowulf* follows the monster Grendel as he learns about humans and fights the war at the center of the Anglo Saxon classic

Guterson, David *Snow Falling on Cedars* Set in America in World War II, a Japanese American is accused of murder

 and must face anti-Japanese sentiment in his community while seeking justice.

 *The Other* Neil Countryman, a middle of the pack kind of guy, befriends trust fund kid John William Barry— passionate, obsessed with the world's hypocrisies and alarmingly prone to bouts of tears—over a shared love of the outdoors.

Gyasi Yaa *Homegoing* A novel of breathtaking sweep and emotional power that traces three hundred years in Ghana and

 along the way also becomes a truly great American novel. Extraordinary for its exquisite language, its implacable

sorrow, its soaring beauty, and for its monumental portrait of the forces that shape families and nations.

Haley, Alex *Roots* Traces Haley's search for the history of his family, from Africa through the era of slavery to the

 20th century.

Hansberry, Lorraine *A Raisin in the Sun****(R)*** *(play)* after they receive a life insurance check, a struggling black family tries to move to the suburbs to start a new life.

\*Hawthorne, Nathaniel *The Scarlet Letter* An adulterous Puritan woman keeps secret the identity of the father of her

 illegitimate child.

Heller, Joseph *Catch-22* A broad comedy about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing

 missions.

Hellman, Lillian *The Litle Foxes* (play)Southern aristocrat Regina Hubbard Giddens, who struggles for wealth and freedom within the confines of an early 20th century society where a father considered only sons as legal heirs.

Herbert, Frank, *Dune* Set in the far future amidst a sprawling feudal interstellar empire where planetary fiefdoms are

 controlled by noble houses that owe an allegiance to the Imperial House Corrino, *Dune* tells the story of young

 Paul Atreides (the heir apparent to Duke Leto Atreides and the heir of House Atreides) as he and his family accept

 control of the desert planet Arrakis, the only source of the "spice" melange, the most important and valuable

 substance in the universe.

Hersey, John *Hiroshima* Six Hiroshima survivors reflect on the aftermath of the first atomic bomb.

Hillerman, Tony, *The Blessing Way* Anthropologist Bergen McKee has travelled to the Navajo Reservation to research tales of Navajo witches known as "skinwalkers." Meanwhile, McKee's friend, Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn, is called upon to investigate a corpse with a mouth full of sand. Soon, both McKee and Leaphorn find themselves in danger as they investigate a mystery involving a missing electronics expert and McKee has a more personal contact with a skinwalker than he bargained for.

Hemingway, Ernest *A Farewell to Arms,* During World War I, an American lieutenant runs away with the woman who

 nurses him back to health.

*Old Man and the Sea* An old man finds redemption in his quest to land the biggest fish of his life

*The Sun also Rises* a group of American and British expatriates travel from Paris to the Festival of Fermín in Pamplona to watch the running of the bulls and the bullfights.

 *For Whom the Bell Tolls* Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to a republican guerrilla unit during the Spanish Civil War. An expert in the use of explosives, he is assigned to blow up a bridge during an attack on the city of Segovia.

Hughes Richard  *A High Wind in Jamaica* The Bas-Thornton children are raised on a plantation in Jamaica during the late 19th century. A hurricane destroys their home and the parents decide the children must leave the island to return to their original home in Europe. Accompanied by other children from Jamaica, they leave on a ship that is soon seized by pirates.

Hurston, Zora Neale *Their Eyes Were Watching God* ***(R)*** Janie repudiates many roles in her quest for self-fulfillment.

Ionesco, Eugene *Rhinoceros* (play)a Frenchman who likes to drink a lot doesn't seem to mind when a rhinoceros first appears running past his town square. Everybody else is astounded, but they are truly horrified when the same rhinoceros (or maybe another one) returns and even kills a cat. The situation is almost dramatically altered later, when Berenger realizes that many of his acquaintances are turning into rhinoceros without apparent reason.

Irving, John *A Prayer for Owen Meany*  a young man and his odd best friend’s loves intertwine in several bizarre events.

James, Henry, *Daisy Miller* portrays the courtship of the beautiful American girl Daisy Miller by Winterbourne, a less sophisticated compatriot of hers. His pursuit of her is hampered by her own flirtatiousness, which is frowned upon by the other expatriates they meet in Switzerland and Italy. *The American*  Wealthy, self-made businessman decides to go to Eurpoe to relax and enjoy his wealth, but instead becomes entangled in an aristocratic family and their daughter with whom he falls in love.

Johnson, James Weldon *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* is the fictional telling of the story of a young biracial man, referred to only as the “Ex-Colored Man", living in post Reconstruction era America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Ex-Colored Man was forced to choose between embracing his black heritage by being a well-known and living obscurely as a mediocre middle-class white man.

Kallos, Stephanie, *Broken For You* When elderly Margaret Hughes discovers that she has a malignant brain tumor, she refuses treatment and decides to take a nice young tenant into her huge, lonely Seattle mansion for company.

Kesey, Ken *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* A novel about a power struggle between the head nurse and one of the male

 patients in a mental institution.

Kingsolver, Barbara *The Poisonwood Bible* about a missionary family, the Prices, who in 1959 move from Georgia to the

 village of Kilanga in the Belgian Congo, close to the Kwilu River.

Knowles, John, *A Separate Peace* young men avoid war in their private school in rural New England.

Lee, Chang-rae *Native Speaker* Korean-American Henry Park is "surreptitious, B+ student of life, illegal alien, emotional alien, Yellow peril: neo-American, stranger, follower, traitor, spy ..." or so says his wife, in the list she writes upon leaving him. Henry is forever uncertain of his place, a perpetual outsider looking at American culture from a distance. As a man of two worlds, he is beginning to fear that he has betrayed both -- and belongs to neither.

*A Gesture Life* an elderly physician named Doc Hata deals with everyday life in a small town in the US who remembers treating Korean comfort women for the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. He once owned a medical and surgical supply store and he has an adopted daughter, named Sunny. The relationship between these two is quite disturbed and leads to certain problems. All the problems with which Doc Hata has to deal can be led back to his experiences in the Japanese Imperial Army in the World War II.

Lee, Harper *To Kill a Mockingbird* **(R)** At great peril to himself and his children, lawyer Atticus Finch defends an

 African-American man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town.

Lewis, Sinclair *Main Street* A young doctor's wife tries to change the ugliness, dullness and ignorance which prevail

 in Gopher Prairie, Minn.

 Also by Lewis, Sinclair *Babbitt*

London, Jack *Call of the Wild* Buck is a loyal pet dog until cruel men make him a pawn in their search for Klondike gold.

*White Fang* The story takes place in Yukon Territory, Canada, during the Klondike Gold Rush at the end of the 19th-century, and details a wild wolfdog's journey to domestication.

Maclean, Norman *A River Runs Through It*  concerns the Macleans, a Presbyterian family during early 20th century Montana whose opinions of life are filtered through their passion for fly fishing. The novella is presented from the point of view of older brother Norman who goes on one last fishing trip with his rowdy and troubled younger brother Paul in an attempt to help him get his life on track.

Mann, Thomas *The Magic Mountain* Just before beginning his professional career Castorp undertakes a journey to visit his tubercular cousin, Joachim Ziemssen, who is seeking a cure in a sanatorium in Davos, high up in the Swiss Alps and ends up confined there for seven years.

Marshall, Paule *Brown Girl, Brownstones* Ten-year-old Selina Boyce lives in a brownstone in Brooklyn with her Barbadian

immigrant family: her mother Silla, father Deighton, and sister Ina. Silla is a strict, no-nonsense woman whose goal is to save enough money to purchase the brownstone they are leasing.

McCarthy, Cormac *All the Pretty Horses* A young man struggles after his Grandfather dies and his Texas ranch is to be

 sold.

 *The Crossing* second in McCarthy trilogy follows two teenage boys across the American Southwest and Mexico in the years before WWII.

*No Country for Old Men* a 2005 novel set along the United States–Mexico border in 1980, the story concerns an illicit drug deal gone wrong in a remote desert location.

*The Road* Set in the post-apocalyptic world, the story takes us on a journey with a father and a son who are trying to survive and find a place more suitable for life.

McCullers, Carson *The Member of the Wedding* A young southern girl is determined to be the third

party on a honeymoon, despite all the advice against it from friends and family.

\*Melville, Herman *Moby-Dick* A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale.

Melville: *Billy Budd* a seaman is impressed into service aboard HMS *Bellipotent* in the year 1797, when the Royal Navy was reeling from two major mutinies and was threatened by the Revolutionary French Republic's military ambitions.

Meredith, George, *The Egoist* recounts the story of self-absorbed Sir Willoughby Patterne and his attempts at marriage; jilted by his first bride-to-be, he vacillates between the sentimental Laetitia Dale and the strong-willed Clara Middleton. More importantly, the novel follows Clara's attempts to escape from her engagement to Sir Willoughby, who desires women to serve as a mirror for him and consequently cannot understand why she would not want to marry him.

Miller, Arthur (drama) *Death of a Salesman****(R)*** Willy Loman slowly loses his mind and his family as his life long illusions start to fall around him.

Millman, Dan, *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* a part-autobiographical book based upon the early life of the author

\*Milton, John *Paradise Lost* an epic poem on the clash between God and his fallen angel, Satan, is a profound meditation on fate, free will, and divinity

Mitchell, Margaret, *Gone with the Wind* Scarlett O’Hara struggles in love and the desire to retain her family estate in Civil

 War South.

Momaday, Scott, *House Made of Dawn* Abel, returning to his reservation in New Mexico after fighting in World War II returns emotionally devastated. *The Way to Rainy Mountain* is about the journey of Momaday's Kiowa ancestors from their ancient beginnings in the Montana area to their final war and surrender to the United States Cavalry at Fort Sill, and subsequent resettlement near Rainy Mountain, Oklahoma.

Monk Kidd Sue *The Secret Life of Bees* Haunted by memories of her late mother and abused by her father, 14-year-old Lily

 Owens runs away with her friend and caregiver Rosaleen to the South Carolina town that holds the key to her

 mother's past.

Morrison, Toni *Sula* The lifelong friendship of two women becomes strained when one causes the other's husband to

abandon her.

*Song of Solomon* follows the life of Macon "Milkman" Dead III, an [African-American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American) male living in [Michigan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan), from birth to adulthood.

 *The Bluest Eye* ***(R)***told from the perspective of Claudia MacTeer as a child and an adult through incest and molestation and her main desire-to have blue eyes.

*Beloved* an escaped slave attempts a normal life in spite of the haunting knowledge of her daughter’s during their escape

Murakami, Haruki *Kafka on the Shore*  Comprising two distinct but interrelated plots, the narrative runs back and forth between the two, taking up each plotline in alternating chapters. The odd chapters tell the 15 year old Kafka's story as he runs away from his father's house to escape an Oedipal curse and to embark upon a quest to find his mother and sister. The even chapters tell Nakata's story. Due to his uncanny abilities, he has found part-time work in his old age as a finder of lost cats

Naylor, Gloria *The Women of Brewster Place* chronicles the communal strength of seven diverse black women who live in decaying rented houses on a walled-off street of an urban neighborhood.

 *Mama Day* The story, which makes many allusions to the dramatic works of Shakespeare, focuses upon the tragic

 love affair of "star-crossed" lovers Ophelia "Cocoa" Day and George Andrews.

Nichols, John, *The Milagro Beanfield War* A group of farmers seek retaliation when a corporation holds their irrigation

 water hostage.

O’Brien Tim *In the lake of the Woods* follows the struggle of John Wade to deal with a recently failed campaign for

the [United States Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate). After moving to [Lake of the Woods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_of_the_Woods_County%2C_Minnesota), [Minnesota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota), John discovers one morning that his wife Kathy is missing. Through the use of flashbacks of John's childhood, college years, and [Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War) experiences, as well as testimony and evidence from affected characters, the novel provides several hypotheses for the disappearance of Kathy Wade, leaving the decision up to the reader.

O’Connor, Flannery *Wise Blood* Adrift after four years in the service, Hazel takes a train to the city of Taulkinham, buys himself a "rat-colored car," and sets about preaching on street corners for the Church Without Christ, "where the blind don't see and the lame don't walk and what's dead stays that way."

Otsuka, Julie *When the Emperor was Divine* a historical fiction novel about a Japanese American family sent to an

 internment camp in the Utah desert during World War II.

Pamuk, Orhan *Snow* A Turkish poet who spent 12 years as a political exile in Germany witnesses firsthand the clash between radical Islam and Western ideals

Parks, Gordon *The Learning Tree* A fictional study of a black family in a small Kansas town in the 1920s.

Peck, Robert Newton ***A Day No Pigs Would Die*** This a funny, tender first-person story of a boy and his father, of growing

 into manhood, of facing both life and death.

Penn Warren, Robert *All the King’s Men* portrays the dramatic political ascent and governorship of Willie Stark, a driven,

 cynical [populist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Populism) in the [American South](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_United_States) during the 1930s.

Plath, Sylvia *The Bell Jar* The heartbreaking story of a talented young woman's descent into madness.

Porter, Katherine Anne, *Ship of Fools* tells the tale of a group of disparate characters sailing from Mexico to Europe aboard a German freighter and passenger ship. It is an allegory that traces the rise of Nazism and looks metaphorically at the progress of the world on its "voyage to eternity."

Potok, Chaim *The Chosen* Friendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a

 baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds and beliefs.

Pynchon, Thomas *The Crying of Lot 49* a perfect example of post-Modern fiction, this is a novel about a woman, Oedipa Maas, possibly unearths the centuries-old conflict between two mail distribution companies, Thurn und Taxis and the Trystero (or Tristero). The former actually existed, and was the first firm to distribute postal mail; the latter is Pynchon's invention.

Rand, Ayn, *Atlas Shrugged* The book explores a dystopian United States where leading innovators, ranging from industrialists to artists, refuse to be exploited by society.

 *Anthem* a dystopian fiction novella that takes place at some unspecified future date when mankind has entered another dark age as a result of the evils of irrationality and collectivism and the weaknesses of socialistic thinking and economics. Technological advancement is now carefully planned (when it is allowed to occur at all) and the concept of individuality has been eliminated (for example, the word "I" has disappeared from the language).

*The Fountainhead* Howard Roark, an individualistic young architect, chooses to struggle in obscurity rather than compromise his artistic and personal vision. The book follows his battle to practice what the public sees as modern architecture, which he believes to be superior, despite an establishment centered on tradition-worship.

Rhys, Jean, *The Wide Sargasso Sea* A retelling of *Jane Eyre* from the point of view of the wife of the main character.

Rostand, Edmond *Cyrano de Bergerac* Hercule Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, a cadet (nobleman serving as a soldier) in the French Army, is a brash, strong-willed man of many talents. However, he has an extremely large nose, which prevents him from expressing his love for his distant cousin, the beautiful and intellectual heiress Roxane.

Roth, Henry *Call It Sleep* is the story of an Austrian-Jewish immigrant family in New York in the early part of the twentieth century. Six-year-old David Schearl has a close and loving relationship with his mother Genya, but his father Albert is aloof, resentful and angry toward his wife and son. David's development takes place between fear of his father's potential violence and the degradation of life in the streets of the tenement slums.

Safran Foer Jonathan *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* Oskar discovers a key in a vase that belonged to his father, a

year after he is killed in the September 11 attacks. The discovery inspires Oskar to search all around New York for information about the key and closure following his father's death.

Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye* A prep school dropout rejects the "phoniness" he sees all about him.

See, Lisa *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the

 tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, “old same,” in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The

 laotong, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she’s painted a poem in nu shu, a

 unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men.

Shaffer, Peter *Equus* Alan Strang is a disturbed youth whose dangerous obsession with horses leads him to commit an unspeakable act of violence. As psychiatrist Martin Dysart struggles to understand the motivation for Alan's brutality, he is increasingly drawn into Alan's web and eventually forced to question his own sanity.

Silko, Leslie Marmon, *Ceremony* The story documents the troubles of Tayo, a Native American World War II veteran, who strives to overcome the disorders of his own mind and his community in order to cure his battle fatigue and end the drought that is devastating his Laguna Pueblo people.

Sinclair, Upton *The Jungle* The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this turn-of-

the-century novel.

Smiley, Jane *A Thousand Acres* a contemporary retelling of Shakespeare's *King Lear* and is set on a thousand acre farm in Iowa that is owned by a family of a father and his three daughters. It is told through the point of view of the oldest daughter, Ginny.

 Smith, Betty *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* the story ofan Irish-American family in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York City

Stegner, Wallace *Angle of Repose* a wheelchair-using historian, Lyman Ward, has lost connection with his son and living family and decides to write about his frontier-era grandparents.

Steinbeck, John *The Grapes of Wrath* The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the

 Depression.

*Of Mice and Men* ***(R)*** Two unlikely friends face difficult lives as farm workers.

*Cannery Row* a collection of episodes documenting the lives of several residents of Monterey during the Great Depression.

*East of Eden* a symbolic recreation of the biblical story of Cain and Abel woven into a history of California's Salinas Valley.

Stoppard, Tom (play) *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* an absurdist, existentialist tragicomedy that expands upon the exploits of two minor characters from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the courtiers Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

\* Stowe, Harriet Beecher *Uncle Tom's Cabin* The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system.

Strout Elizabeth *The Burgess Boys* follows two brothers who must return home to help out their sister after her son is

 accused of a hate crime. The novel is set in the fictional New England town of Shirley Falls.

Styron, William *Set this House on Fire* The day after Peter Leverett met his old friend Mason Flagg in Italy, Mason was

 found dead. The hours leading up to his death were a nightmare for Peter - both in their violence and in their

 maddening unreality.

*Sophie’s Choice* Three stories are told: a young Southerner wants to become a writer; a turbulent love-hate affair

between a brilliant Jew and a beautiful Polish woman; and of an awful wound in that woman's past--one that impels both Sophie and Nathan toward destruction.

Tan, Amy *The Joy Luck Club,* ***(R)***After her mother's death, a young Chinese-American woman learns of her mother's

 tragic early life in China.

*The Kitchen God’s Wife* Pressured to reveal to the young woman her secret past in war-torn China in the 1940s, Winnie weaves an unbelievable account of a childhood of loneliness and abandonment and a young adulthood marred by a nightmarish arranged marriage. Winnie survives her many ordeals because of the friendship and strength of her female friends, the love of her second husband, and her own steadfast courage and endurance. *The Bonesetter’s Daughter* is divided into two major stories. The first is about Ruth, a Chinese-American woman living in San Francisco who worries that her elderly mother, Lu Ling, is gradually becoming demented. The second major story is that of Lu Ling herself, as written for Ruth. Several years earlier, Lu Ling had written out her life story in Chinese. Ruth arranges to have the document translated, and learns the truth about her mother's life in China.

Tartt, Donna *The Goldfinch* Theo Decker, a thirteen-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his

 mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange

 new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all

 by his unbearable longing for his mother, he clings to one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously

 captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.

Tyler Anne *Noah’s Compass* On the surface, Liam Pennywell leads an ordered, decent life. Once widowed and once

divorced, with three grown-up daughters, he has just been dismissed from his teaching job and, for lack of funds, has moved to a smaller apartment on the outskirts of Baltimore. Toying with the idea of retiring altogether rather than going job hunting at his age, Pennywell is assaulted by a burglar on the very first night he stays at his new place. When he wakes up in hospital with a bandaged head, he cannot remember a thing about the attack.

\*Twain, Mark *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* **(R)** Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi

 in search of freedom.

*\*Tom Sawyer* young orphan Tom has many adventures with his friend Huck as he lives with his aunt and cousins.

Waters, Alice, *The Man Who Killed the Deer* a timeless story of Pueblo Indian sin and redemption, and of the conflict between Indian and white laws

\*Wharton, Edith, *Ethan Frome* **(R)** a man struggles to reject his home and life for a chance at love

*House of Mirth* set against the backdrop of the 1890s New York ruling class, tragic heroine, Lily Bart, lives in a

society that she describes as a "hot-house of traditions and conventions."

Wilder, Thornton *Our Town* (play) three acts cover the youth, young adulthood, and eventual death of the main character as she relates to her community.

Williams, Tennessee (drama) *Glass Menageri*a young woman lives under the oppressive control of her mother *Streetcar Named Desire* ***(R*)** an aging southern woman must move in with her sister and rough husband when her

 illicit life catches up with her.

Vonnegut, Kurt *Slaughterhouse-Five* Billy Pilgrim, an optometrist from Ilium, New York, shuttles between World

 War II Dresden and a luxurious zoo on the planet Tralfamadore.

Walker, Alice *The Color Purple* A young woman sees herself as property until another woman teaches her to value herself.

\*Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine* A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.

*War of the Worlds* the experiences of an unnamed narrator who travels through the suburbs of London as England is invaded by Martians.

\*Wilde, Oscar *Lady Windermere’s Fan* the play's action is put in motion by Lady Windermere's jealousy over her husband's interest in Mrs. Erlynne, a beautiful older woman with a mysterious past. Unknown to Lady Windermere, Mrs. Erlynne is really her divorced mother who, for the past 20 years, has been presumed dead.

Wilson, August *Fences* (play) Troy, a fifty-something head of household struggles with providing for his family and with his obsession about cheating death.

*The Piano Lesson* (play) follows the lives of the Sutter family and an heirloom, the infamous piano. The brother, Boy Willie, is a sharecropper who wants to sell the piano to buy the land that his ancestors had toiled on as slaves while the sister, Berniece, remains emphatic about keeping it. The piano shows the carved faces of their great- grandfather's wife of son during the days of their enslavement.

Wolff, Tobias *Old School*  A scholarship boy at a New England prep school grapples with literary ambition and insecurity in this lucid, deceptively sedate novel, set in the early 1960s.

Wolfe, Thomas *Look Homeward, Angel* A novel depicting the coming of age of Eugene Gant and his passion to

 experience life.

Wright, Richard *Native Son* Bigger Thomas, a young man from the Chicago slums, lashes out against a hostile society

 by committing two murders.

Wroblewski, David *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*  The novel is a retelling of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in rural Wisconsin. The titular character is a mute boy who, after his father is killed, runs away from but then returns to his usurped home, hoping to prove his suspicions that his uncle murdered his father.

### World Literature

Achebe, Chinua *Things Fall Apart* **(R)** Okonkwo, a proud village leader, is driven to murder and suicide by European

 changes to his traditional Ibo society.

Allende, Isabel *House of the Spirits* The story of the Trueba family in Chile, from the turn of the century to the violent

 days of the overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in 1973.

Atwood, Margaret, *The Handmaid's Tale* is set in the near future in the Republic of Gilead, founded by a racist, male chauvinist, nativist, theocratic-organized military coup as an ideologically-driven response to the pervasive ecological, physical and social degradation of the country *Also by Atwood: Cat’s Eye* controversial painter Elaine Risley vividly reflects on her childhood and teenage years. Her strongest memories are of Cordelia, who was the leader of a trio of girls who were both very cruel and very kind to young Elaine, in ways that tint Elaine's perceptions of relationships and her world—not to mention her art—into the character's middle years. *The Robber Bride* three friends see Zenia, a long-dead university classmate who had stolen, one by one, their respective *beaux*. The novel alternates between the present and flashbacks featuring the points of view of Tony, Charis, and Roz, respectively. Zenia has given each woman a different version of her biography, tailor-made to insinuate herself into their lives. No one version of Zenia is the truth, and the reader knows no more than the characters.  *The Penelopiad* Penelope, wife of Odysseus, tells her version of life during Homer’s *Odyssey* *Alias Grace* This historical fiction is based on the real, notorious 1843 murders of Thomas Kinnear and his housekeeper Nancy Montgomery in Upper Canada. Two servants of the Kinnear household, Grace Marks and James McDermott, were convicted of the crime. McDermott was hanged and Marks was sentenced to life imprisonment.  *The Blind Assassin* Iris, now an old woman, recalls the events and relationships of her childhood, youth and middle age, as well as her unhappy marriage to Richard Griffen, plus her sister Laura’s suicide.

\*Austen, Jane *Pride and Prejudice****(R)***Love and marriage among the English country gentry of Austen's day.

 *Sense and Sensibility* When their father dies, two daughters are left to reduced circumstances when the family estate passes to their brother

 *Persuasion* Anne Elliot falls in love with a handsome young naval officer named Frederick Wentworth, who is

intelligent and ambitious, but poor. Seven years later they meet again.

*Mansfield Park* a young girl from a relatively poor family is raised by her rich uncle and aunt, but is always treated as inferior to them;

 *Emma* Although convinced that she herself will never marry anyone, Emma Woodhouse, a precocious twenty- year-old resident of the village of Highbury, imagines herself to be naturally gifted in conjuring love matches.

Balzac, Honore de *Pere Goriot* A father is reduced to poverty after giving money to his daughters.

Beckett, Samuel *Waiting for Godot* (play) an absurdist play in which two characters, Vladimir and Estragon, wait endlessly and in vain for someone named Godot to arrive.

\*Bronte, Charlotte *Jane Eyre* An intelligent and passionate governess falls in love with a strange, moody man tormented

 by dark secrets. If you enjoy this novel, read *The* *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys (on list).

\*Bronte, Emily *Wuthering Heights* One of the masterpieces of English romanticism, this is a novel of Heathcliff and

 Catherine, love and revenge.

Camus, Albert *The Stranger* A man who is virtually unknown to both himself and others commits a pointless murder

 for which he has no explanation.

*The Plague* concerns an outbreak of bubonic **plague** in the French-Algerian port city of Oran, sometime in the 1940s. The first-person narrator is unnamed but mostly follows Dr. Bernard Rieux. ... More cases appear, and Dr. Rieux and his colleague Dr. Castel believe the disease is bubonic plague.

\*Carroll, Lewis *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (you must read this with *Through the Looking Glass*) A fantasy in

 which Alice follows the White Rabbit to a dream world.

\*Cervantes, Miguel de *Don Quixote* An eccentric old gentleman sets out as a knight "tilting at windmills" to right the

 wrongs of the world.

\*Chekhov, Anton *The Cherry Orchard* (play) an aristocratic Russian woman and her family as they return to the family's estate just before it is auctioned to pay the mortgage. While presented with options to save the estate, the family essentially does nothing and the play ends with the estate being sold to the son of a former serf, and the family leaving to the sound of the cherry orchard being cut down.

 *The Bear (play)*  The play takes place in the drawing room of Elena Ivanovna Popova's estate on the seven month anniversary of her husband's death. Since her husband died, Popova has locked herself in the house in mourning.

Conrad, Joseph *Heart of Darkness* The novel's narrator journeys into the Congo where he discovers the extent to

 which greed can corrupt a good man.

Criddle, Jan. D. and Teeda Butt Mam *To Destroy You Is No Loss: The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family* After the 1975 Communist takeover of Cambodia, Teeda's upper-class life is reduced to surviving impossible conditions.

Courtenay Bryce *The Power of One* follows an English-speaking South African boy named Peekay from 1939 to 1951. The story begins when Peekay's mother has a nervous breakdown, and Peekay ends up being raised by a Zulu wet nurse, Mary Mandoma, who eventually becomes his nanny.

\*Dante *Inferno* Dante travels in a dream through the nine circles of Hell

*The Divine Comedy* this is the full work, including *The Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradisio*

Davies, Robertson *Fifth Business* Ramsay's passion for hagiology and his guilty connection to Mary Dempster provide most of the impetus and background for this novel. He spends much of the book struggling with his image of Mary Dempster as a fool-saint and dealing with issues of guilt that grew from a childhood accident.

\*Defoe, Daniel *Robinson Crusoe* The adventures of a man who spends 24 years on an isolated island.

\*Dickens, Charles *Great Expectations* The moving story of the rise, fall, and rise again of a humbly-born young orphan.

 *Oliver Twist* a small orphan falls in with thieves and is eventually reunited with his wealthy grandfather.

 *Bleak House* a novel that depicts the deplorable lives of factory workers in England

 *David Copperfield* the life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity through his father’s death, mother’s remarriage, and misery with his step-father.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee *Sister of My Heart* tells the tale of two cousins born on the same day, their premature births brought on by a mysterious occurrence that claims the lives of both their fathers.

\*Dostoevski, Fyodor *Crime and Punishment* A psychological novel about a poor student who murders an old woman

 pawnbroker and her sister.

\*Dumas, Alexandre *The Three Musketeers* Set in the 17th century, it recounts the adventures of a young man named d'Artagnan after he leaves home to become a guard of the musketeers.

 *The Count of Monte Christo* After being tricked and imprisoned by men he trusted, the main character plots revenge.

\*Eliot, George *The Mill on the Floss* Maggie is miserable because her brother disapproves of her choices of romances.

Eliot, T.S. *Murder in the Cathedral* is a verse drama that portrays the assassination of [Archbishop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archbishop) Thomas Becket in [Canterbury Cathedral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canterbury_Cathedral) in 1170.

Emecheta, Buchi *The Joys of Motherhood* Nnu Ego is a woman who gives all her energy, money and everything she has to

 raising her children - leaving her little time to make friends.

Esquivel, Laura *Like Water for Chocolate* As the youngest of three daughters in a turn-of-the-century Mexican family,

 Tita may not marry but must remain at home to care for her mother.

\*Fielding, Henry *Tom Jones* Tom Jones is a foundling discovered on the property of a very kind, wealthy landowner in

 England's West Country. Tom develops affection for his neighbour's daughter, who is above him in social class.

\*Flaubert, Gustave *Madame Bovary* In her extramarital affairs, a bored young wife seeks unsuccessfully to find the emotional experiences she craves.

Ford, Ford Madox *The Good Soldier* set just before World War I the novel chronicles the tragedy of Edward Ashburnham, his own seemingly perfect marriage and that of two American friends.

Forster, E.M. A Passage to India A young English woman in British-ruled India accuses an Indian doctor of sexual

 assault.

*A Room with a View* a young woman must choose between society’s view of a husband and

her own passionate desires for a man she met in Italy.

*Howard’s End* two sisters grapple with their desire for happiness and the choices in society for which they are

judged.*.*

Frank, Anne *The Diary of a Young Girl* The story of a Jewish family forced by encroaching Nazis to live in

hiding.

Fuentes, Carlos *The Death of Artemio Cruz* A powerful Mexican newspaper publisher recalls his life as he lies dying at

 age 71.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* A technique called magical realism is used in this portrait of

 seven generations in the lives of the Buendia family.

*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* told in reverse chronology, a man’s murder is explained.

\*Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von *Faust* Faust makes a deal with the devil.

\*Gogol, Nikolai *The Overcoat*  Russian tales of good and evil.

Golding, William *Lord of the Flies* **(R)** English schoolboys marooned on an uninhabited island test the values of

 civilization when they attempt to set up a society of their own. (Freshmen are the only level not allowed to read

 this)

\*Goldsmith, Oliver *The Vicar of Wakefield*  The vicar is wealthy due to investing an inheritance he received from a deceased relative, and the he donates the £34 that his job pays annually to local orphans and war veterans. On the evening of his son George's wedding to wealthy Arabella Wilmot, the vicar loses all his money through the bankruptcy of his merchant investor who left town with his money.

Grass, Gunter *The Tin Drum* Oskar describes the amoral conditions through which he has lived in Germany, both

 during and after the Hitler regime.

Greene, Graham, *The Power and the Glory* tells the story of a Roman Catholic priest in the state of Tabasco in Mexico during the 1930s, a time when the Mexican government, still effectively controlled by Plutarco Elías Calles, strove to suppress the Catholic Church.

 *Brighton Rock* Hale comes to Brighton on assignment and is faced with a teenage sociopath.

\*Hardy, Thomas *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* The happiness of Tess and her husband is destroyed when she confesses that

 she bore a child as the result of a forced sexual relationship with her employer's son.

 *The Mayor of Casterbridge*  in a drunken fit, a man auctions off his wife and daughter, only to sober up and realize

 his mistake. Years later after he becomes the mayor, his wife and child reappear.

 *Jude the Obscure* a young man dreams of overcoming his social position and advancing in the world

*Return of the Native* The novel is set on Egdon Heath, a fictional barren moor in Wessex in southwestern England. The native of the title is Clym Yeobright, who has returned to the area to become a schoolmaster after a successful but, in his opinion, shallow career as a jeweler in Paris.

Hesse, Hermann *Siddhartha* Emerging from a kaleidoscope of experiences and pleasures, a young Brahmin ascends to

 a state of peace and mystic holiness.

Homer *The Iliad* ***(R)*** traces the story of several Greek heroes in the final year of the Trojan War

*The Odyssey* ***(R)*** Odysseus curses the gods and is forced to atone for his ego for 10 years before returning home to

Ithaca to see his wife and son.

Hosseini, Khaled *The Kite Runner* a young man’s growing up tale in war torn Afghanistan and move to the US

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*  A young woman’s story of love and friendship in modern day Afghanistan

\*Hugo, Victor *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* a beautiful Gypsy captures the heart of Quasimodo and his adoptive father, Claude Frollo, the Archdeacon of Notre Dame igniting a fight of passion among three men for the heart of Esmerelda.

Huxley, Aldous *Brave New World* ***(R)***A bitter satire of the future, in which the world is controlled by advances in science

 and social changes.

\*Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll’s House* ***(R)***(play) Nora’s secret begins to implode her marriage and her view of herself in

 society in this turn of the century play.

 *An Enemy of the People* (play) addresses the irrational tendencies of the masses, and the hypocritical and corrupt nature of the political system that they support. It is the story of one brave man's struggle to do the right thing and speak the truth in the face of extreme social intolerance.

Ishiguro, Kazuo *Never Let Me Go* A haunting tale of love within the modern world of DNA cloning. The story revolves around three friends who grow up inside the confines of an English "school" established for the sole purpose of raising cloned children; who will become vital organ donors.

\*James, Henry *The Golden Bowl* a young American heiress, and her widowed father lead a life of wealth and refinement in London. They are both getting married:. But both father and daughter are unaware that their new conquests share a secret-one for which all concerned must pay the price.

*Portrait of a Lady* Transplanted to Europe from her native America, Isabel Archer has candour, beauty, intelligence, an independent spirit and a marked enthusiasm for life. An unexpected inheritance apparently gives her freedom, but despite all her natural advantages she makes one disastrous error of judgement and the result is genuinely tragic.

Joyce, James *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* A novel about a young man growing up in Ireland and rebelling against family, country, and religion.

Kafka, Franz *The Trial* A man is tried for a crime he knows nothing about, yet for which he feels guilt.

*The Metamorphosis* ***(R)*** A young man wakes up to find he is now a beetle and must survive his alienation from his family and life.

Kingston, Maxine Hong, *The Woman Warrior*Throughout the five chapters, Kingston blends autobiography with old

 Chinese folktales.

Kogawa, Joy, *Obasan* chronicles Canada's internment and persecution of its citizens of Japanese descent during

World War II from the perspective of a young child.

Hahiri, Jhumpa *The Namesake* The novel describes the struggles and hardships of a Bengali couple who immigrate to the United States to form a life outside of everything they are accustomed to.

Lawrence, D.H. *Sons and Lovers* An autobiographical novel about a youth torn between a dominant working-

class father and a possessive genteel mother.

Leroux, Gaston *Phantom of the Opera* a young woman is tutored by a “voice” to become a great opera singer with deadly results for members of her cast and at her own peril when she falls in love with another man.

\*Machiavelli, Niccolo *The Prince* A treatise giving the absolute ruler practical advice on ways to maintain a strong

 central government.

Mann, Thomas *Death in Venice* In this novella, an author becomes aware of a darker side of himself when he visits

 Venice.

Martel, Yann *Life of Pi* ***(R)***a young man’s harrowing tale of months at sea in a life boat with a Bengal tiger

Maugham, Somerset, *Of Human Bondage* after the death of the mother of the nine-year-old Philip, he is sent to live with his aunt and uncle. Philip inherits a small fortune but the money is held in custody by his uncle until he is twenty-one, giving his uncle a great deal of power over him until he reaches his maturity.

McEwan, Ian *Atonement*  A young woman grapples with her lie that causes her family to fall apart and consequently

 spends the next several years seeking atonement.

Mukherjee, Bharati  ***Jasmine*** is a novel by set in the present about a young Indian woman in the United States who, trying to adapt to the American way of life in order to be able to survive, changes identities several times.

Ngozi, Chimamamda *Purple Hibiscus* set in postcolonial Nigeria, a country beset by political instability and economic

difficulties. The central character is Kambili Achike, aged fifteen for much of the period covered by the book, a member of a wealthy family dominated by her devoutly Catholic father, Eugene. Eugene is both religious zealot and a violent figure in the Achike household, subjecting his wife Beatrice, Kambili herself, and her brother Jaja to beatings and psychological cruelty.

Norris, Frank *The Octopus* depicts the conflict between wheat farmers in the San Joaquin Valley and the Pacific and Southwestern railroad. When the railroad attempts to take possession of land leased to and improved by the farmers, they are challenged to defend themselves.

O'Brien, Flann,  *At Swim-Two-Birds* presents itself as a first-person story by an unnamed Irish student of literature. The student believes that "one beginning and one ending for a book was a thing I did not agree with", and he accordingly sets three apparently quite separate stories in motion.

O'Neill, Eugene (drama) *The Iceman Cometh* a man awaits his inevitable end after killing his own wife.

*Long Day’s Journey into Night* The action covers a fateful, heart-rending day from around 8:30 am to midnight, in

August 1912 at the seaside Connecticut home of the Tyrones - the semi-autobiographical representations of

O'Neill himself, his older brother, and their parents at their home, Monte Cristo Cottage.

*The Hairy Ape* The play tells the story of a brutish, unthinking laborer known as Yank, as he searches for a sense of belonging in a world controlled by the rich.

Orwell, George  *Animal Farm* **(R)** Animals turn the tables on their masters.

  *1984****(R)***a futuristic view of the world in which “Big Brother” is watching you

Pasternak, Boris  *Doctor Zhivago* An epic novel of Russia before and after the Bolshevik revolution.

Paton, Alan *Cry, the Beloved Country* A country Zulu pastor searches for his sick sister in Johannesburg, and

 discovers that she has become a prostitute and his son a murderer.

Proust, Marcel *Swann's Way* recounts the experiences of the Narrator (who is never named) while growing up, participating in society, falling in love, and learning about art.

Remarque, Erich Maria *All Quiet on the Western Front* A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding

 shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death.

Rivera, Tomas, *y no se lo trago la tierra/and the earth did not devour him* varying perspectives form a collective narrative that piece together the events occurring over the past year of the child's life, prefaced in the first chapter. The reasoning behind having an anonymous protagonist and irregular form is left for the reader to infer.

Rushdie, Salman *The Moor's Last Sigh* traces four generations of the narrator's family and the ultimate effects upon the narrator. The narrator, Moraes Zogoiby, traces his family's beginnings down through time to his own lifetime.

*Midnight’s Children* deals with India's transition from British colonialism to independence and the partition of

British India.

\*Scott, Sir Walter *Ivanhoe* Tale of Ivanhoe, the disinherited knight, Lady Rowena, Richard the Lion-Hearted, and Robin Hood at the time of the Crusades.

Roy, Arundhati *The God of Small Things* a story about the childhood experiences of fraternal twins whose lives are destroyed by the "Love Laws" that lay down "who must be loved, and how, and how much"

Sartre Jean-Paul  *No Exit* Three damned souls, Garcin, Inez, and Estelle are brought to the same room in hell by a mysterious Valet. They had all expected medieval torture devices to punish them for eternity, but instead find a plain room furnished in Second Empire style.

\*Shakespeare, William *Romeo and Juliet***(R),** *Julius Caesar***,** *Hamlet Othello****,*** *The Taming of the Shrew****),*** *Macbeth, King*

 *Lear, A Midsummer Night's Dream****(R)****, The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, The*

*Winter’s Tale (all of his plays are on the list!)*

Shaw, George Bernard *Pygmalion (play)* Henry Higgins makes a bet that he can train a bedraggled Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, to pass for a duchess at an ambassador's garden party by teaching her to assume a veneer of gentility, the most important element of which, he believes, is impeccable speech. *Mrs. Warren’s Profession (play)* Upon graduation, a woman rasied in boarding schools now directly confronts her mother and learns the bitter truth: Mrs. Warren is a former prostitute who has risen to the rank of a high class madam, and all of Vivie's education has been built on the profits of her profession. *Major Barbara (play)* Set in pre-World War I London, Lady Britomart brings together her adult children with their long-estranged father. It appears that he will disinherit his children because his company has a tradition of giving the arms factory to a capable adult born out of wedlock.

\*Shelley, Mary W. *Frankenstein* A gothic tale of terror in which Franken-stein creates a monster from corpses.

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* Ivan Denisovich Shukhov endures one more day in a

 Siberian prison camp and finds joy in survival.

\*Sophocles *Oedipus Rex* Oedipus swears he fill find the man who killed the king and will save his city without realizing he is the killer. *Antigone* The daughter of Oedipus battles corruption to retain her kingdom

Spark, Muriel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*  A teacher develops a close relationship with her charges at a girls’ school, but is eventually betrayed by one of them.

\*Stevenson, Robert Louis *Treasure Island*  a swashbuckling tale of pirates, treasure and espionage on the high seas

\*Swift, Jonathan *Gulliver's Travels* Gulliver encounters dwarfs and giants and has other strange adventures when his

 ship is wrecked in distant lands.

\*Thackery, W.M., *Vanity Fair* Becky and Amelia navigate the pitfalls of friendship as their families gain and lose social position and they seek marriages suited to their social standing.

Tolkein, J.R.R. ***HOBBIT; or THERE AND BACK AGAIN***  Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit, sets off to find adventure and finds far

 more than he bargains for. His theft of a ring from the creature of darkness called the Gollum sets in motion the

 final awesome struggle between the forces of good and evil in Middle Earth.

\*Tolstoy, Leo *Anna Karenina* Anna forsakes her husband for the dashing Count Vronsky and brief happiness.

\*Trollope, Anthony, *Barchester Towers* satirizes the then raging antipathy in the Church of England between High Church and Evangelical adherents. *The Way We Live Now* Augustus Melmotte is a foreign-born financier with a mysterious. When he moves his business and his family to London, the city's upper crust begins buzzing with rumours about him - and a host of characters ultimately find their lives changed because of him.

\*Turgenev, Ivan *Fathers and Sons* refers to the growing divide between the two generations of Russians, and the character Yevgeny Bazarov has been referred to as the "first Bolshevik" for his nihilism and rejection of the old order.

Villarreal, Jose Antonio *Pocho*  illuminates here the world of "pochos," Americans whose parents come to the United States from Mexico. Set in Depression-era California, the novel focuses on Richard, a young pocho who experiences the intense conflict between loyalty to the traditions of his family's past and attraction to new ideas.

\*Voltaire *Candide*  a satirical novella that tells the story of Candide who, after being exiled from his home and his love, Cunegonde, endures many hardships in his effort to be reunited with her.

Waugh, Evelyn *Brideshead Revisited* The Sacred & Profane Memories of Captain Charles Ryder

Weisel, Elie *Night* A searing account of the Holocaust as experienced by a 15-year-old boy.

\*Wilde, Oscar *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Realizing that one day his beauty will fade, Dorian expresses a desire to sell his soul to ensure his portrait would age rather than himself. Dorian's wish is fulfilled, plunging him into debauched acts. The portrait serves as a reminder of the effect each act has upon his soul, with each sin displayed as a disfigurement of his form, or through a sign of aging.

Woolf, Virginia, *To the Lighthouse* is set on two days ten years apart. The plot centers around the Ramsay family's anticipation of and reflection upon a visit to a lighthouse and the connected familial tensions. *Mrs. Dalloway* centers on the efforts of Clarissa Dalloway, a middle-aged society woman, to organize a party, even as her life is paralleled with that of Septimus Warren Smith, a working-class veteran who has returned from the First World War bearing deep psychological scars.

\*Zola, Emile *Germinal* exposes the inhuman conditions of miners in northern France in the 1860s.

More to Add

 Man and Superman

Aenid

Dracula

Middlemarch

Orlando

Oryx and Crake

Playboy of the Western World

The Crucible

Middlesex

Who’s Afraid of Virjinia Woolf

A Bend in the River

Black Boy

Medea

The Age of Innocence

Linden Hills

Absalom, Absalom

Sorrows of Young Werthe