Many middle school students enjoy the connection with a young adult novel, but classic literature never goes out of style. Several humanities organizations have established a classic literature reading list that emphasizes the importance of reading timeless books. This list introduces new characters and alien worlds to the middle school set. Several of these books are commonly taught in middle school English classes, so adding them to a summer reading list can give your child an advantage when they come up during the school year.

### Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</em></td>
<td>Jules Verne</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Christmas Carol</em></td>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Day No Pigs Would Die</em></td>
<td>Robert Newton Peck</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Stranger Came Ashore</em></td>
<td>Mollie Hunter</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</em></td>
<td>Betty Smith</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Wizard of Earthsea</em></td>
<td>Ursula K. LeGuin</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Wrinkle in Time</em></td>
<td>Madeleine L’Engle</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Across Five Aprils</em></td>
<td>Irene Hunt</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</em></td>
<td>Sir Arthur Conan Doyle</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</em></td>
<td>Mark Twain</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Amos Fortune, Free Man</em></td>
<td>Elizabeth Yates</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</em></td>
<td>Thornton Wilder</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Call It Courage</em></td>
<td>Armstrong Sperry</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Call of the Wild</em></td>
<td>Jack London</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Chocolate War</em></td>
<td>Robert Cormier</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Count of Monte Cristo</em></td>
<td>Alexander Dumas</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Daddy Long Legs</em></td>
<td>Jean Webster</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Diary of a Young Girl</em></td>
<td>Anne Frank</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dragonsong</em></td>
<td>Anne McCaffrey</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dragonwings</em></td>
<td>Laurence Yep</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Enchantress From the Stars</em></td>
<td>Sylvia Engdahl</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Endless Steppe: Growing up in Siberia</em></td>
<td>Esther Hautzig</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fahrenheit 451</em></td>
<td>Ray Bradbury</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Frankenstein</em></td>
<td>Mary Shelley</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Ghost Belonged To Me</em></td>
<td>Richard Peck</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Goodbye, Mr. Chips</em></td>
<td>James Hilton</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Hobbit</em></td>
<td>J.R.R. Tolkien</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Horatio Hornblower Series</em></td>
<td>C.S. Forester</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Pages</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</td>
<td>Victor Hugo</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident at Hawk’s Hill</td>
<td>Allan W. Eckert</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivanhoe</td>
<td>Sir Walter Scott</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island of the Blue Dolphin</td>
<td>Scott O'Dell</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Have I Loved</td>
<td>Katherine Paterson</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnny Tremain</td>
<td>Esther Forbes</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journey to Topaz</td>
<td>Yoshiko Uchida</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie of the Wolves</td>
<td>Jean Craighead George</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>Rudyard Kipling</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Last Mission</td>
<td>Harry Mazer</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Last of the Mohicans</td>
<td>Irving Washington</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</td>
<td>Antoine de Saint-Exupery</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Women</td>
<td>Louisa May Alcott</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.C. Higgins the Great</td>
<td>Virginia Hamilton</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood</td>
<td>Howard Pyle</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Brother Sam Is Dead</td>
<td>James and Christopher Collier</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Friend Flicka</td>
<td>Mary O'Hara</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</td>
<td>Frederick Douglass</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Velvet</td>
<td>Enid Bagnold</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Outsiders</td>
<td>S.E. Hinton</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pigman</td>
<td>Paul Zindel</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pilgrim’s Progress</td>
<td>John Bunyan</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Red Pony</td>
<td>John Steinbeck</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rifles for Watie</td>
<td>Harold Keith</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson Crusoe</td>
<td>Daniel Defoe</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</td>
<td>Mildred D. Taylor</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane</td>
<td>Jack Schaefer</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story of My Life</td>
<td>Helen Keller</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Be a Slave</td>
<td>Julius Lester</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure Island</td>
<td>Robert Louis Stevenson</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Upstairs Room</td>
<td>Johanna Reiss</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War of the Worlds</td>
<td>H.G. Wells</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where the Lilies Bloom</td>
<td>Vera Cleaver</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where the Red Fern Grows</td>
<td>Wilson Rawls</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White Mountains</td>
<td>John Christopher</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Yearling</td>
<td>Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2. Older Classics for Children

The following titles commonly appear on lists of classic children's literature. Most have been issued in several different editions, offering a range of illustration styles from which to choose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title and date</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcott, Louisa May</td>
<td><em>Little Women.</em> c1868</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrie, J.M.</td>
<td><em>Peter Pan.</em> c1904</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baum, L. Frank</td>
<td><em>The Wizard of Oz.</em> c1902</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond, Michael</td>
<td><em>A Bear Called Paddington.</em> c1958</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brink, Carol Ryrie</td>
<td><em>Caddie Woodlawn.</em> c1935</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnett, Frances Hodgson</td>
<td><em>The Secret Garden.</em> c1911</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll, Lewis</td>
<td><em>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.</em> c1866</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collodi, Carlo</td>
<td><em>Adventures of Pinocchio.</em> c1833</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defoe, Daniel</td>
<td><em>Robinson Crusoe.</em> c1836</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickens, Charles</td>
<td><em>A Christmas Carol.</em> c1844</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farley, Walter</td>
<td><em>The Black Stallion.</em> c1941</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forbes, Esther</td>
<td><em>Johnny Tremain.</em> c1943</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank, Anne</td>
<td><em>The Diary of a Young Girl.</em> c1952</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gannett, Ruth Stiles</td>
<td><em>My Father's Dragon.</em> c1948</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gipson, Fred</td>
<td><em>Old Yeller.</em> c1956</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golding, William</td>
<td><em>Lord of the Flies.</em> c1954</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grahame, Kenneth</td>
<td><em>The Wind in the Willows.</em> 1907</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kipling, Rudyard</td>
<td><em>The Jungle Book.</em> 1894</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight, Eric</td>
<td><em>Lassie Come-Home.</em> c1940</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis, C.S.</td>
<td><em>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.</em> c1950</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindgren, Astrid</td>
<td><em>Pippi Longstocking.</em> c1945</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milne, A. A.</td>
<td><em>Winnie-the-Pooh.</em> c1926</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery, L. M.</td>
<td><em>Anne of Green Gables.</em> c1908</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norton, Mary</td>
<td><em>The Borrowers.</em> c1953</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearce, Philippa</td>
<td><em>Tom's Midnight Garden.</em> c1958</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan</td>
<td><em>The Yearling.</em> c1938</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewell, Anna</td>
<td><em>Black Beauty.</em> 1877</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speare, Elizabeth G.</td>
<td><em>The Witch of Blackbird Pond.</em> c1958</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spyri, Johanna</td>
<td><em>Heidi.</em> c1884</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stevenson, Robert Louis</td>
<td><em>Treasure Island.</em> c1884</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3. Contemporary Classics

The following books are highly regarded by children's literature specialists, as well as being popular with children - two qualities that make them likely to stand the test of time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title and date</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams, Richard</td>
<td>Watership Down. c1972</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Lloyd</td>
<td>The Book of Three. c1964</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babbitt, Natalie</td>
<td>Tuck Everlasting. c1975</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blume, Judy</td>
<td>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. c1972</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnford, Sheila</td>
<td>The Incredible Journey. c1961</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleary, Beverly</td>
<td>Ramona the Pest. c1968</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormier, Robert</td>
<td>The Chocolate War. c1974</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creech, Sharon</td>
<td>Walk Two Moons. c1994</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis, Christopher Paul</td>
<td>The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963. c1995</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahl, Roald</td>
<td>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. c1964</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DiCamillo, Kate</td>
<td>Because of Winn-Dixie. c2000</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer, Nancy</td>
<td>A Girl Named Disaster. c1996</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzhugh, Louise</td>
<td>Harriet the Spy. c1964</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gantos, Jack</td>
<td>Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key. c1998</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, Virginia</td>
<td>M.C. Higgins, the Great. c1974</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacques, Brian</td>
<td>Redwall. c1986</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juster, Norton</td>
<td>The Phantom Tollbooth. c1961</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konigsburg, E. L.</td>
<td>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. 1967</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeGuin, Ursula</td>
<td>The Wizard of Earthsea. c1968</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L'Engle, Madeline</td>
<td>A Wrinkle in Time. c1962</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowry, Lois</td>
<td>The Giver. c1982</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowry, Lois</td>
<td>Number the Stars. c1989</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4. Classic Reading—Recommended Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MacLachlin, Patricia</td>
<td>Sarah, Plain and Tall. c1985</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers, Walter Dean</td>
<td>Scorpions. c1988</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North, Sterling</td>
<td>Rascal. c1963</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson, Katherine</td>
<td>Bridge to Terabithia. c1977</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulsen, Gary</td>
<td>Hatchet. c1987</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce, Tamora</td>
<td>Alanna: The First Adventure. c1983</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rasking, Ellen</td>
<td>The Westing Game. c1978</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawls, Wilson</td>
<td>Where the Red Fern Grows. c1961</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockwell, Thomas</td>
<td>How to Eat Fried Worms. c1973</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowling, J.K.</td>
<td>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. c1998</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sachar, Louis</td>
<td>Holes. c1998</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soto, Gary</td>
<td>Baseball in April, and Other Stories. c1990</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staples, Suzanne Fisher</td>
<td>Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind. c1989</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor, Mildred D.</td>
<td>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. c1976</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uchida, Yoshiko</td>
<td>Journey to Topaz. c1971</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watkins, Yoko</td>
<td>So Far From the Bamboo Grove. c1986</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawashima</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yep, Laurence</td>
<td>Dragonwings. c1975</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisa May Alcott</td>
<td>Little Women</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Armstrong</td>
<td>Sounder</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Austin</td>
<td>Pride and Prejudice</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Reid Banks</td>
<td>The Indian in the Cupboard</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Baum</td>
<td>The Wizard of Oz</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray Bradbury</td>
<td>Fahrenheit 451</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Brontë</td>
<td>Jane Eyre</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Brontë</td>
<td>Wuthering Heights</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Hodgson Burnett</td>
<td>The Secret Garden</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willa Cather</td>
<td>My Ántonia</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Chaucer</td>
<td>The Canterbury Tales</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agatha Christy</td>
<td>Murder on the Orient Express</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Conrad</td>
<td>Heart of Darkness</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Crane</td>
<td>The Red Badge of Courage</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Defoe</td>
<td>Robinson Crusoe</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
<td>A Christmas Carol</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
<td>Great Expectations</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
<td>A Tale of Two Cities</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Eliot</td>
<td>Silas Marner</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Ellison</td>
<td>Invisible Man</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Scott Fitzgerald</td>
<td>The Great Gatsby</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Forbes</td>
<td>Johnny Tremain</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Frank</td>
<td>The Diary of a Young Girl</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gibson</td>
<td>The Miracle Worker</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Gipson</td>
<td>Old Yeller</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Golding</td>
<td>Lord of the Flies</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Grahame</td>
<td>The Wind in the Willows</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bette Greene</td>
<td>Summer of My German Soldier</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gunther</td>
<td>Death Be Not Proud</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Haley</td>
<td>Roots</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Hardy</td>
<td>Tess of the D’Urbervilles</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Hawthorne</td>
<td>The Scarlet Letter</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Hemingway</td>
<td>A Farewell to Arms</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Hemingway</td>
<td>For Whom the Bell Tolls</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Hemingway</td>
<td>The Old Man and the Sea</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. E. Hinton</td>
<td>The Outsiders</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Hunt</td>
<td>Across Five Aprils</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldous Huxley</td>
<td>Brave New World</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Keyes</td>
<td>Flowers for Algernon</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudyard Kipling</td>
<td>The Jungle Book (Books I and I)</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Knowles</td>
<td>A Separate Peace</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper Lee</td>
<td>To Kill a Mockingbird</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeleine L’Engle</td>
<td>A Wrinkle in Time</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. S. Lewis</td>
<td>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack London</td>
<td>The Call of the Wild</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lois Lowry</td>
<td>The Giver</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia MacLachlan</td>
<td>Sarah, Plain and Tall</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herman Melville</td>
<td>Moby-Dick</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Miller</td>
<td>The Crucible</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Miller</td>
<td>Death of a Salesman</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Mitchell</td>
<td>Gone With the Wind</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. M. Montgomery</td>
<td>Anne of Green Gables</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott O’Dell</td>
<td>Island of the Blue Dolphins</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Orwell</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Orwell</td>
<td>Animal Farm</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Paton</td>
<td>Cry, The Beloved Country</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Newton Peck</td>
<td>A Day No Pigs Would Die</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Rawls</td>
<td>Where the Red Fern Grows</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author/Novel</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Honors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erich Maria Remarque</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Quiet on the Western Front</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antoine de Saint-Exupéry</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Little Prince</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. D. Salinger</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Catcher in the Rye</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Schaefer</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Shakespeare</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Bernard Shaw</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pygmalion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Shelley</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankenstein</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophocles</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Sperry</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call It Courage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Steinbeck</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grapes of Wrath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Steinbeck</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of Mice and Men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Steinbeck</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pearl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Steinbeck</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Red Pony</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lewis Stevenson</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapped</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lewis Stevenson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure Island</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Swift</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulliver's Travels</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. R. R. Tolkien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hobbit</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Twain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Twain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adventures of Huckleberry</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jules Verne</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Walker</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Color Purple</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith Wharton</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Frome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. B. White</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte's Web</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Ingalls Wilder</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little House on the Prairie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Wilder</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Town</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wright</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Boy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wright</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Son</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann David Wyss</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Swiss Family Robinson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Zindel</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pigman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **College Bound Reading List--suggested for Honors students**

Compiled by Arrowhead Library System

American Literature

Agee, James
A Death in the Family

Story of loss and heartbreak felt when a young father dies.

Baldwin, James

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Semi-autobiographical novel about a 14-year-old black youth's religious conversion.

Bellow, Saul

Seize the Day

A son grapples with his love and hate for an unworthy father.

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451

Reading is a crime and firemen burn books in this futuristic society.

Cather, Willa

My Antonia

Immigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies.

Chopin, Kate

The Awakening

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**

5.4 12

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.

Cormier, Robert

**The Chocolate War**

5.4 8

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**

8.0 8

During the Civil War, Henry Fleming joins the army full of romantic visions of battle which are shattered by combat.

Dorris, Michael

**A Yellow Raft in Blue Water**

5.8 21

Three generations of Native American women recount their searches for identity and love.

Ellison, Ralph

**Invisible Man**

7.2 30

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**

5.4  9

The Bundren family takes the ripening corpse of Addie, wife and mother, on a gruesomely comic journey.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

**The Great Gatsby**

7.3  8

A young man corrupts himself and the American Dream to regain a lost love.

Gaines, Ernest

**The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman**

4.6  13

In her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from slavery to the civil rights movement.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

**The Scarlet Letter**

11.7  14

An adulterous Puritan woman keeps secret the identity of the father of her illegitimate child.

Heller, Joseph

**Catch-22**

7.1  30

A broad comedy about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing missions.

Hemingway, Ernest
A Farewell to Arms

During World War I, an American lieutenant runs away with the woman who nurses him back to health.

Hurston, Zora Neale

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Janie repudiates many roles in her quest for self-fulfillment.

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.

Lee, Harper

To Kill a Mockingbird

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.

London, Jack
Call of the Wild 8.0 7

Buck is a loyal pet dog until cruel men make him a pawn in their search for Klondike gold.

McCullers, Carson

The Member of the Wedding 6.3 9

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 10.3 42

A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale.

Morrison, Toni

Sula 6.4 8

The lifelong friendship of two women becomes strained when one causes the other's husband to abandon her.

Poe, Edgar Allan

Great Tales and Poems 11.8 29

Poe is considered the father of detective stories and a master of supernatural tales.

Potok, Chaim

The Chosen 6.6 15
Friendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds and beliefs.

Salinger, J.D.

**The Catcher in the Rye**

4.7 11

A prep school dropout rejects the "phoniness" he sees all about him.

Sinclair, Upton

**The Jungle**

8.0 22

The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this turn-of-the-century novel.

Steinbeck, John

**The Grapes of Wrath**

4.0 25

The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the Depression.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

**Uncle Tom's Cabin**

9.3 32

The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system.

Tan, Amy

**The Joy Luck Club**

5.7 14

After her mother's death, a young Chinese-American woman learns of her mother's tragic early life in China.

Twain, Mark
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom.

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.

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.

World Literature

Achebe, Chinua

Things Fall Apart
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**

8.4 32

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.

Austen, Jane

**Pride and Prejudice**

12.0 27

Love and marriage among the English country gentry of Austen's day.

Balzac, Honore de

**Pere Goriot**

7.2 15

A father is reduced to poverty after giving money to his daughters.

Bronte, Charlotte

**Jane Eyre**

7.9 33

An intelligent and passionate governess falls in love with a strange, moody man tormented by dark secrets.

Bronte, Emily

**Wuthering Heights**

11.3 23
One of the masterpieces of English romanticism, this is a novel of Heathcliff and Catherine, love and revenge.

Carroll, Lewis

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**

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.

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.

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.
Dostoevski, Feodor

Crime and Punishment 8.7 40
A psychological novel about a poor student who murders an old woman pawnbroker and her sister.

Eliot, George

The Mill on the Floss 9.9 41
Maggie is miserable because her brother disapproves of her choices of romances.

Esquivel, Laura

Like Water for Chocolate 7.2 9
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.

Forster, E.M.

A Passage to India 7.7 18
A young English woman in British-ruled India accuses an Indian doctor of sexual assault.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel

One Hundred Years of Solitude 8.7 27
A technique called magical realism is used in this portrait of seven generations in the lives of the Buendia family.
Golding, William

**Lord of the Flies**

English schoolboys marooned on an uninhabited island test the values of civilization when they attempt to set up a society of their own.

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.

Hesse, Hermann

**Siddhartha**

Emerging from a kaleidoscope of experiences and pleasures, a young Brahmin ascends to a state of peace and mystic holiness.

Huxley, Aldous

**Brave New World**

A bitter satire of the future, in which the world is controlled by advances in science and social changes.

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.
Orwell, George

**Animal Farm** 7.3 5

Animals turn the tables on their masters.

Pasternak, Boris

**Doctor Zhivago** 8.2 36

An epic novel of Russia before and after the Bolshevik revolution.

Paton, Alan

**Cry, the Beloved Country** 6.2 14

A country Zulu pastor searches for his sick sister in Johannesburg, and discovers that she has become a prostitute and his son a murderer.

Remarque, Erich Maria

**All Quiet on the Western Front** 6.0 10

A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death.

Scott, Sir Walter

**Ivanhoe** 12.9 40

Tale of Ivanhoe, the disinherited knight, Lady Rowena, Richard the Lion-Hearted, and Robin Hood at the time of the Crusades.
Frankenstein

A gothic tale of terror in which Frankenstein 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.

Swift, Jonathan

Gulliver's Travels

Gulliver encounters dwarfs and giants and has other strange adventures when his ship is wrecked in distant lands.

Tolstoy, Leo

Anna Karenina

Anna forsakes her husband for the dashing Count Vronsky and brief happiness.

Weisel, Elie

Night

A searing account of the Holocaust as experienced by a 15-year-old boy.

Wells, H.G.

The Time Machine

A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biography/History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Angelou, Maya</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</strong> 6.7 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An African-American writer traces her coming of age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ashe, Arthur and Arnold Rampersad.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Days of Grace</strong> 9.0 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography of a highly respected tennis star and citizen of the world who dies of AIDS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker, Russell</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growing Up</strong> 6.9 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A columnist with a sense of humor takes a gentle look at his childhood in Baltimore during the Depression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brown, Dee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</strong> 7.9 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A narrative of the white man's conquest of the American land as the Indian victims experienced it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delany, Sara and A. Elizabeth with Amy Hill Hearth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years</strong> 5.9 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two daughters of former slaves tell their stories of fighting racial and gender prejudice during the 20th century.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frank, Anne

**The Diary of a Young Girl**

6.5  14
The story of a Jewish family forced by encroaching Nazis to live in hiding.

Franklin, Benjamin

**The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin**

n/a  n/a
Considered one of the most interesting autobiographies in English.

Haley, Alex

**Roots**

7.4  48
Traces Haley's search for the history of his family, from Africa through the era of slavery to the 20th century.

Hersey, John

**Hiroshima**

8.4  9
Six Hiroshima survivors reflect on the aftermath of the first atomic bomb.

Keller, Helen

**The Story of My Life**

6.8  12
The story of Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf, and her relationship with her devoted teacher Anne Sullivan.

Kennedy, John F.
Profiles in Courage

A series of profiles of Americans who took courageous stands in public life.

Mathabane, Mark

Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa

A tennis player breaks down racial barriers and escape to a better life in America.

Thoreau, Henry David

Walden

In the mid-19th century, Thoreau spends 26 months alone in the woods to "front the essential facts of life."

Tocqueville, Alexis de

Democracy in America, Vol. 1

This classic in political literature examines American society from the viewpoint of a leading French magistrate who visited the U.S. in 1831.

Science

Carson, Rachel

Silent Spring

Carson's original clarion call to environmental action sets the stage for saving our planet.

Hawking, Stephen
Cosmology becomes understandable as the author discusses the origin, evolution, and fate of our universe.

**Social Science**

Hamilton, Edith

*Mythology*  8.2  20

Gods and heroes, their clashes and adventures, come alive in this splendid retelling of the Greek, Roman and Norse myths.

Kotlowitz, Alex

*There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in Urban America*  6.7  16

Lafayette and Pharoah Rivers and their family struggle to survive in one of Chicago’s worst housing projects.

**Drama**

Beckett, Samuel

*Waiting for Godot*  5.4  2

Powerful, symbolic portrayal of the human condition.

Ibsen, Henrik

*A Doll's House*  5.9  4

A woman leaves her family to pursue personal freedom.
Miller, Arthur

**Death of a Salesman**  
6.2 5

The tragedy of a typical American who, at age 63, is faced with what he cannot face: defeat and disillusionment.

Shakespeare, William

**Romeo and Juliet**  
8.6 5

**Hamlet**  
10.5 7

**Macbeth**  
10.9 4

**Twelfth Night**, others.  
8.6 4

Shaw, Bernard

**Saint Joan**  
7.3 6

**Pygmalion**, others.  
7.0 6

Wilde, Oscar

**The Importance of Being Earnest**  
6.9 9

Comedy exposing quirks and foibles of Victorian society.

Wilder, Thornton

**Our Town**  
3.9 3

The dead of a New Hampshire village of the early 1900s appreciate life more than the living.
Williams, Tennessee

**A Streetcar Named Desire**

Blanche Dubois' fantasies of refinement and grandeur are brutally destroyed by her brother-in-law.

Wilson, August

**The Piano Lesson**

Drama set in 1936 Pittsburgh chronicles black experience in America.