

HONORS READING LIST

Adams, *Watership Down*, FIC ADA

What happens when you need a better place to live? The story follows a warren of rabbits fleeing the destruction of their home by a land developer. As they search for a safe haven, skirting danger at every turn, we become acquainted with the group and the individual rabbits. Like *Animal Farm*, this novel is as much about freedom, ethics, and human nature as it is about a bunch of animals.

Alvarez, *How the Garcia Girls Got Their Accents*, FIC ALV

The Garcias -- Dr. Carlos (Papi), his wife Laura (Mami), and their four daughters, Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia -- belong to the uppermost echelon of Spanish Caribbean society. This is the chronicle of that family in exile. For the Garcia girls, it is exhilarating and terrifying, liberating and excruciating trying to live up to Papa's version of honor while accommodating the expectations of their American boyfriends.

Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, 921 ANG

In this first of five volumes of autobiography, poet Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence. Sent at a young age to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, Angelou learned a great deal from this exceptional woman and the tightly knit black community there. These very lessons carried her throughout the hardships she endured later in life, including a tragic occurrence while visiting her mother in St. Louis and her formative years spent in California--where an unwanted pregnancy changed her life forever.

Borland, *When the Legends Die*, FIC BOR

Here is an extraordinary novel about man, nature, and courage; if you liked "The Call of the Wild" or "The Light in the Forest", try this story. Thomas Black Bull's family returned to the old Indian ways when they went into hiding after his father killed another brave, but soon his parents die and he is left to get by on his own.

Bradbury, *Dandelion Wine*, FIC BRA

Unknown, supernatural events transformed into everyday occurrences. The summer of 1928 was

a vintage season for a growing boy. A summer of green apples, moved lawns, and new sneakers. Here is the magical summer of Douglas Spaulding.

Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*, SC BRA

Montag, a fireman in charge of burning the forbidden volumes, finds himself a hunted fugitive, forced to choose not only between two women, but between personal safety and intellectual freedom.

Bradbury, *The Illustrated Man*, SC BRA

The tattooed man moves and the designs scrawled upon his skin swirl tales beyond imagining: tales of love and laughter, darkness and death, of mankind's glowing, golden past and its dim, haunted future. Here are eighteen stories that blend magic and truth in a kaleidoscopic tapestry of wonder.

Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*, FIC BRA

From "Rocket Summer" to "The Million-Year Picnic," Ray Bradbury's stories of the colonization of Mars form an eerie mesh of past and future. Written in the 1940s, the chronicles drip with nostalgic atmosphere--shady porches with tinkling pitchers of lemonade, grandfather clocks, chintz-covered sofas. But longing for this comfortable past proves dangerous in every way to Bradbury's characters--the golden-eyed Martians as well as the humans. Starting in the far-flung future of 1999, expedition after expedition leaves Earth to investigate Mars. The Martians guard their mysteries well, but they are decimated by the diseases that arrive with the rockets. Colonists appear, most with ideas no more lofty than starting a hot-dog stand, and with no respect for the culture they've displaced.

Bradbury's quiet exploration of a future that looks so much like the past is sprinkled with lighter material. In "The Silent Towns," the last man on Mars hears the phone ring and ends up on a comical blind date. But in most of these stories, Bradbury holds up a mirror to humanity that reflects a shameful treatment of "the other," yielding, time after time, a harvest of loneliness and isolation. Yet the collection ends with hope for renewal, as a colonist family turns away from the demise of the Earth towards a new future on Mars. Bradbury is a master fantasist and *The*

Martian Chronicles are an unforgettable work of art.



Coman, Carolyn, *Many Stones*, FIC COM

Coman adopts some conventions of the problem novel in this ambitious work about forgiveness. Berry's sister, Laura, has been murdered in South Africa, where she was volunteering at a school, and Berry, still smarting from her divorced father's perceived rejection of the family, is becoming angry and isolated. Early on she explains that she collects stones and stacks them on her chest so that she can feel their heft and "know there's something there to be weighted." Obligated to accompany her loathed father to South Africa for a memorial service, Berry, who narrates, is sure so much time with her father will be disastrous. But when they meet South Africans searching for ways to forgive after apartheid, Berry and her father realize they must begin their own reconciliation. As Berry confronts the devastation of a race of people subjected to degradation, imprisonment and torture, her own experiences come to seem almost trivial by comparison: "I feel smaller and smaller.... It's like big, important history drapes over everything here in South Africa.... Nothing I know comes close to being a matter of life and death," she realizes. The implied parallel, however, is frequently jarring -- exactly what has Berry suffered at the hands of her father, and how unforgivable is it?



Cormier, *The Chocolate War*, FIC COR

Does Jerry Renault dare to disturb the universe? You wouldn't think that his refusal to sell chocolates during his school's fundraiser would create such a stir, but it does; it's as if the whole school comes apart at the seams. To some, Jerry is a hero, but to others, he becomes a scapegoat--a target for their pent-up hatred. And Jerry? He's just trying to stand up for what he believes, but perhaps there is no way for him to escape becoming a pawn in this game of control; students are pitted against other students, fighting for honor--or are they fighting for their lives?.



Crichton, *Andromeda Strain*, FIC CRI

The United States government is given a warning by the pre-eminent biophysicists in the country: current sterilization procedures applied

to returning space probes may be inadequate to guarantee uncontaminated re-entry to the atmosphere. Two years later, seventeen satellites are sent into the outer fringes of space to "collect organisms and dust for study." One of them falls to earth, landing in a desolate area of Arizona. Twelve miles from the landing site, in the town of Piedmont, a shocking discovery is made: the streets are littered with the dead bodies of the town's inhabitants, as if they dropped dead in their tracks.



Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*, FIC DIC

Scrooge was a miser. His money was his life. Then, one Christmas Eve, Scrooge received a trio of visitors who showed him not only the true meaning of Christmas, but the true meaning of his life as well...Probably one of the most beloved Christmas stories in history, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* has it all: heroes, villains, ghosts, time travel, long-lost love, and a happy ending. With worldwide appeal, this story continues to captivate generation after generation.



Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*, FIC DIC

Dickens' novel of the French Revolution. They fled to London seeking safety, and found each other--Dr. Manette, falsely imprisoned for decades; his daughter, Lucie, whose stunning beauty was matched by her loyalty and grace; and Charles Darnay, who abandoned a royal title to risk being called a traitor in France, a spy in England.




Doerr, H., *Stones for Ibarra*, FIC DOE

This is the story of an anglo married couple, Richard and Sara Everton, who, in a burst of idealism, move from San Francisco to an old family home and abandoned mine in Mexico. Why, in the face of objections and concern from all their friends, would they move to a house they know has no electricity or water and aren't even sure is still standing? Richard and Sara go "in order to extend the family's Mexican history and patch the present onto the past. To find out if there was still copper underground and how much of the rest of it was true, the width of sky, the depth of stars, the air like new wine, the harsh noons and long, slow dusks. To weave chance and hope into a fabric that would clothe them as long as they lived." Their years as Ibarra's only foreigners - Richard's work, his


illness, Sara's work, her care of Richard, their neighbors and friends, the constantly surprising landscape, the stones - is a story told with affectionate and patient wisdom.

 **Doyle, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, FIC DOY**


Here are twelve tales by the father of detective fiction: "A scandal in Bohemia" -- "The Red-headed League" -- "A case of identity" -- "The Boscombe Valley mystery" -- "The five orange pips" -- "The man with the twisted lip" -- "The adventure of the blue carbuncle" -- "The adventure of the speckled band" -- "The adventure of the engineer's thumb" -- "The adventure of the noble bachelor" -- "The adventure of the beryl coronet" -- "The adventure of the copper beaches".

 **Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*, 863 ESQ**

A romantic, poignant tale, touched with bittersweet moments of magic and sensuality in turn-of-the-century Mexico. Main character Tita is the youngest of three daughters born to Mama Elena, virago extraordinaire and owner of the de la Garza ranch. Tita falls in love with Pedro, but Mama Elena will not allow them to marry, since family tradition dictates that the youngest daughter remain at home to care for her mother. Instead, Mama Elena orchestrates the marriage of Pedro and her eldest daughter Rosaura and forces Tita to prepare the wedding dinner. What ensues is a poignant, funny story of love, life, and food!

 **Evslin, *Adventures of Ulysses*, 883.01 EVS**

Ulysses and his men embark upon a glorious journey home, unaware that they have angered the gods. Their journey will last for ten years, riddled with many perils.


 **Flagg, *Fannie, Fried Green Tomatoes*, FIC FLA**

A novel about two women in the 1980's: of gray-headed Mrs. Threadgoode telling her life story to Evelyn, who is in the sad slump of middle age. The tale she tells is also of two women-of the irrepressibly daredevilish tomboy Idgie and her friend Ruth. A sustaining power of friendship

amid the violence and racial hate in a small Alabama town.

 **Fredriksson, *Marianne, Simon's Family*, FIC FRE**

This quietly moving story of family, friendship, and love, by the author of *Hanna's Daughters*, has already become an international best-seller and will no doubt capture the hearts of American readers as well. Simon Larsson is a pensive and thoughtful boy growing up in Sweden during World War II, fortunate to be safe within a remarkably loving and cohesive community. Half Jewish, he is being raised by his Scandinavian aunt and uncle, who adopted him as their own at birth. In a novel rich in mystical overtones, his adoptive parents take on truly archetypal dimensions. Karin's deep love and compassion is matched by Erik's understated strength and stoicism, and together they create a firm family base from which 11 year-old Simon can grow and dream. But Simon, who doesn't know the story of his birth and adoption, seems set apart from his Scandinavian world by his dark hair and olive complexion, and he often retreats into fantasies to alleviate his feelings of disconnection. When he befriends Isak Lentov, a young Jewish boy from Germany, their families become close in spite of the contrast between Isak's father's religious faith and the Larssons' strictly secular Swedish socialism.

 **Garcia, *Cristina, Dreaming in Cuban*, FIC GAR**

Here is the dreamy and bittersweet story of a family divided by politics and geography by the Cuban revolution. It is the family story of Celia del Pino, and her husband, daughter and grandchildren, from the mid-1930s to 1980. Celia's story mirrors the magical realism of Cuba itself, a country of beauty and poverty, idealism and corruption.

 **Gardner, *Grendel*, FIC GAR**

The first and most terrifying monster in English literature tells his own side of the story. Here is the Beowulf legend retold from the monster's point of view. Grendel, the monster, watches humans from a revealing and telling vantage point just like a bully in the schoolyard. Grendel picks up certain curse words and takes joy in repeating them. And when he picks a victim,

watch out!.

 **Greenberg, *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*, FIC GRE**


This novel chronicles the three-year battle of a mentally ill, but perceptive, teenage girl against a world of her own creation. Aided by a brilliant psychiatrist, and accompanied by her deeply concerned-and terrified-parents, Deborah must undertake a three-year struggle to resist the allure of madness, and rejoin the real world.

 **Guest, *Ordinary People*, FIC GUE**


Seventeen-year-old Conrad Jarrett returns to his parents' home and tries to build a new life for himself after spending eight months in a mental institution for attempted suicide. He must struggle through life and all the obstacles that he faces being re-introduced into society.

 **Gunther, *Death Be Not Proud*, 921 GUN**

Johnny Gunther was only seventeen years old when he died of a brain tumor. During the months of his illness, everyone near him was impressed by his courage, wit and quiet friendliness in the face of despair. Here is his father's memoir of his son's brave fight for life after his brain tumor is diagnosed.

 **Haddon, Mark, *the curious incident of the dog in night-time*, FIC HAD**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

 **Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*, FIC HEM**

Can man win in an overwhelming struggle? Here is the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. This tale of an aged Cuban fisherman going head-to-head (or hand-to-fin) with a magnificent marlin encapsulates Hemingway's favorite motifs of physical and moral challenge. Here, for a change, is a fish tale that actually does honor to the author. In fact *The Old Man and the Sea* revived Ernest Hemingway's career and also led directly to his receipt of the Nobel Prize

in 1954.

 **Hersey, *Bell for Adano*, FIC HER**

An Italian-American major wins the love and admiration of the natives of the small Sicilian village when he tries to replace the 700-year-old town bell that was melted down by the Fascists. This story speaks of an unflinching patriotism and humanity.

 **Hersey, *Hiroshima*, 940.53 HER**


Learn about the atomic age. On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atomic bomb ever dropped on a city. This journalistic masterpiece tells what happened on that day. Told through powerful memories of survivors, this powerful piece of prose will stir your conscience.

 **Heyerdahl, *Kon Tiki*, 910.4 HEY**

This is the record of an astonishing adventure -- a journey 4300 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean by raft. Intrigued by Polynesian folklore, biologist Thor Heyerdahl suspected that the South Sea Islands had been settled by an ancient race from thousand of miles to the east. Here is the experiment that proved it was possible!.


 **Hickam, *October Sky*, 629.1 HIC**

It was 1957, the year Sputnik raced across the Appalachian sky, and the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, was slowly dying. Faced with an uncertain future, Homer Hickam nurtured a dream: to send rockets into outer space. The introspective son of the mine's superintendent and a mother determined to get him out of Coalwood forever, Homer fell in with a group of misfits who learned not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but how to sustain their hope in a town that swallowed its men alive. As the boys began to light up the tarry skies with their flaming projectiles and dreams of glory, Coalwood, and the Hickams, would never be the same.

 **Hopkinson, Nalo, *Brown Girl in the Ring*, FIC HOP**

In a city that has been forgotten by its wealthy residents, a young woman turns to ancient truths and eternal powers to help her understand the

family mystery that was hidden by her mother and grandmother.

 **Irving, John**, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, FIC IRV

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom. The story focuses on his friendship with John Wheelwright; beginning at age eleven when Owen hits a foul ball that kills John's mother during a Little League game in 1953.

 **Irving, Washington**, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* in *Sketch Book*, FIC IRV

This short story collection concerns Irving's impressions of English landscape and customs and six chapters deal with American subjects. This book marked the beginning of short story in America. Of these "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (on this recommended reading list) and Rip Van Winkle are the most famous.

 **Johnson, Charles R.**, *Middle Passages*, FIC JOH

In this savage parable of the African American experience, Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave eking out a living in New Orleans in 1830, hops aboard a square rigger to evade the prim Boston schoolteacher who wants to marry him. But the Republic turns out to be a slave clipper bound for Africa. Calhoun, whose master educated him as a humanist, becomes the captain's cabin boy, and though he hates himself for acting as a lackey, he's able to help the African slaves recently taken aboard to stage a revolt before the rowdy, drunken crew can spring a mutiny.

 **Keneally, Schindler's List**, FIC KEN

Here is the stunning novel based on the true story of how German war profiteer and prison camp Director Oskar Schindler came to save more Jews from the gas chambers than any other single person during World War II. In this milestone of Holocaust literature, the author uses the actual testimony of Schindler's Jews to brilliantly portray the courage and cunning of a good man in the midst of unspeakable evil.

 **Kesey, Ken**, *Sometimes a Notion*, FIC KES

This wild-spirited tale tells of a bitter strike that rages through a small lumber town along the Oregon coast. Bucking that strike out of sheer cussedness are the Stammers. Out of the Stamper family's rivalries and betrayals and their struggles in the Oregon timber country.

 **King, Stephen**, *Christine*, FIC KIN

Arnie Cunningham, a bookish and bullied high school senior, becomes obsessed with a 1958 Plymouth he is restoring named Christine.

 **Kingsolver, Animal Dreams**, FIC KIN

Codi Noline returns to the sleepy mining town of Grace, Arizona, to care for her father, who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. It is a bad time for her: disappointed in her personal life, she has closed down her emotions in defense against a heart that cares too easily. "I had quietly begun to hope for nothing at all in the way of love, so as not to be disappointed," she muses. In Arizona, she finds friends, allies, and a love that endures. Kingsolver's characters are winners, especially the women, who take charge of life without fuss or complaint.


 **Kingsolver, The Bean Trees**, FIC KIN

Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.


 **Kipling, Kim**, FIC KIP

One of the great adventure books of all time, *Kim* is the story of the orphaned son of an Irish soldier. A secret mission for the British and a bond with a Tibetan lama in search of a sacred

river soon lead Kim into a life of spies and secrets, danger and high excitement. It is also a profound look at the differences between the East and West.

 **Kogawa, Joy, *Obasan*, FIC KOG**

Naomi Nakane, a child of Japanese immigrant parents, is interned by the Canadians at the beginning of World War II when she is five years old.

 **Le Guin, Ursula, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, FIC LEG**

Genly Ai is an emissary from the human galaxy to Winter, a lost, stray world. His mission is to bring the planet back into the fold of an evolving galactic civilization, but to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own culture and prejudices and those that he encounters. On a planet where people are of no gender--or both--this is a broad gulf indeed. The inventiveness and delicacy with which Le Guin portrays her alien world are not only unusual and inspiring. In the end, this individual attempts to bring the peoples of Grthen into the Ekumen.

 **Lee, H., *To Kill a Mockingbird*, FIC LEE**

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up.

 **London, *The Call of the Wild*, FIC LON**

Kidnapped from his safe California home. Thrown into a life-and-death struggle on the frozen Arctic wilderness. Half St. Bernard, half shepherd, Buck learns many hard lessons as a sled dog: the lesson of the leash, of the cold, of near-starvation and cruelty. And the greatest lesson he learns from his last owner, John Thornton: the power of love and loyalty. Yet always, even at the side of the human he loves, Buck feels the pull in his bones, an urge to answer his wolf ancestors as they howl to him.


Will he return to the call of the wild?.

 **London, *The Sea Wolf*, FIC LON**

The story concerns Humphrey Van Weyden, a refined castaway who is put to work on the motley schooner *Ghost*. The ship is run by brutal Wolf Larsen, who, despite his intelligence and strength, is antisocial and self-destructive. Hardened by his arduous experiences at sea, Humphrey develops strength of both body and will, protecting another castaway, Maud Brewster, and facing down the increasingly deranged Larsen.

 **McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, FIC MCC**

At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer, who becomes the confidant for all various types of misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s. Each one yearns for escape from small town life. When Singer's mute companion goes insane, Singer moves into the Kelly house, where Mick Kelly, the book's heroine (and loosely based on McCullers), finds solace in her music. Wonderfully attune to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated -- and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty.


 **McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*, FIC MCC**

Frankie is a motherless 12-year-old growing up, with difficulty, in a town in Georgia in the 1930s. She is lonely, awkward, bored, alienated from most of the people around her. When her brother returns from military service and announces he's getting married, Frankie hits on the desperate scheme of living with the couple after the wedding, in a childish attempt to belong to something, even if it's where she's not wanted. This desire blooms into a full-fledged fantasy that almost gets out of control, until Frankie is brought painfully back to earth--maybe a little wiser.

 **McKinley, Robin, *Beauty*, FIC McK**

This much-loved retelling of the classic French tale *Beauty and the Beast* elicits the familiar

magical charm, but is more believable and complex than the traditional story. In this version, Beauty is not as beautiful as her older sisters, who are both lovely and kind. Here, in fact, Beauty has no confidence in her appearance but takes pride in her own intelligence, her love of learning and books, and her talent in riding. She is the most competent of the three sisters, which proves essential when they are forced to retire to the country because of their father's financial ruin. The plot follows that of the renowned legend: Beauty selflessly agrees to inhabit the Beast's castle to spare her father's life. Beauty's gradual acceptance of the Beast and the couple's deepening trust and affection are amplified in novel form.

 **Mishima, Yukio, *Sound of Waves*, FIC MIS**


A simple, beautiful story of first love, set in a Japanese fishing village, about two young people and how their love was threatened by ugly gossip.

 **Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*, FIC MOM**


This widely acclaimed novel tells the story of a young Indian American struggling to reconcile the traditional ways of his people with the demands of the 20th century. Abel was raised to heed the voice of the land, the changes of the seasons, and the lessons taught by peyote. But once he returned from a foreign war and became exposed to the temptations of the wider world, Abel became a man lost to himself.

 **Monfredo, Miriam, *Seneca Falls Inheritance*, FIC MON**

Free-thinking librarian Glynis Tryon is in the midst of organizing the historic Woman's Rights Convention of 1848 to be held in the small town of Seneca Falls, New York, when a body turns up in the canal, drawing her attention and talents toward sleuthing.

 **Mori, Kyoto, *Shizuko's Daughter*, FIC MOR**

After her mother's suicide when she is twelve years old, Yuki spends years living with her distant father and his resentful new wife, cut off from her mother's family, and relying on her own inner strength to cope with the tragedy.

 **Newth, Mette, *The Abduction*, 839.8 NEW**

Christine watches everyone treat Osuqo and Poq like animals and realizes they are as human as she and in need of aid. She and her mother are forced into servitude in the Mowinkel household, where Christine is made to guard the foreigners. With nothing (except her life) to lose, Christine finds freedom in her decision to help Henrik, Mowinkel's son, in his plan to help the two Inuit escape. Newth has utilized ships' logs and the centuries-old oral tradition of the Inuit in creating a chilling tale of xenophobia and its cruel cost to humanity. Yet this ably translated, thoughtful work is also inspiring: the stain of slavery blots the history of many nations, and Newth provides a fresh perspective from which to consider the "clash of cultures." This story is based on the actual kidnapping of Inuit Eskimos by European traders in the 17th century.

 **Olsen, Tillie, *Tell Me a Riddle*, SC OLS**

This collection of four stories, "Here I Stand," "Hey Sailor," "What Ship," and "Tell Me a Riddle," has become an American classic. These stories explore the deep pain and real promise of a fundamental American experience. Once you read these stories, they will live in your heart forever.


 **Orwell, *Animal Farm*, FIC ORW**

Satire of the government where animals take over the farm and run the world in the future. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, the animals set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Here is the story that records the evolution from a revolution against tyranny ("four legs good, two legs bad") to a totalitarianism just as terrible ("All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.").

 **Rand, Ayn, *Anthem*, FIC RAN**

In a future world, only one man dares to think, strive, and love as an individual in the midst of a paralyzing collective humanity. Equality 7-2521 lives in the Dark Ages of the future, when all decisions are made by committee, all people live in collectives, all traces of individualism have been wiped out. Equality 7-2521 is punished for being better than his brothers. After he finds a tunnel from ancient times where he can be by himself to think and write, he discovers

electricity and falls in love. What are the consequences? (The book was published in 1938, a decade before Orwell's 1984.) Anthem provides a good introduction to Rand's philosophy of "objectivism," which is built on individuality, freedom, and reason.

 **Rawlings, *The Yearling*, FIC RAW**

Fighting off a pack of starving wolves, wrestling alligators in the swamp, romping with bear cubs, drawing off the venom of a giant rattlesnake bite with the heart of a fresh-killed deer—it's all in a day's work for the Baxter family of the Florida scrublands. But young Jody Baxter is not content with these electrifying escapades, or even with the cozy comfort of home with Pa and Ma. He wants a pet, a friend with whom he can share his quiet cogitations and his corn pone. Jody gets his pet, a frisky fawn he calls Flag, but that's not all. With Flag comes a year of life lessons, frolicking times, and aching hard decisions. This powerful book is as compelling now as when it was written over 60 years ago. Read simply as a naturalist study of the Florida interior, it fascinates and entices. Add the heart-stopping adventure and heart-wrenching human elements, and this is a classic well worth its Pulitzer Prize.

 **Renault, *The King Must Die*, FIC REN**

The story of the mythical hero Theseus, slayer of monsters, abductor of princesses and king of Athens. He emerges from these pages as a clearly defined personality; brave, aggressive and quick. The core of the story is Theseus' adventure in Crete.


 **Richter, *The Light in the Forest*, FIC RIC**

A four-year-old white boy is adopted into an Indian warrior tribe. John Cameron Butler's adopted father, a great Lenni Lenape Indian warrior, renamed the boy who he raised as his own son. But at fifteen, John was ordered to go back to the white man to honor an Indian treaty. How will he cope with the impossible situation and return to people who hate his Indian family? Where does he really belong?.


 **Schaefer, Jack, *Shane*, FIC SCH**

A mysterious stranger rode into the small Wyoming valley in the summer of 1889. His name was Shane and he became a friend and guardian to the Starrett family at a time when


people on the frontier battled for survival. The story of this quiet gunfighter is told through the eyes of a young boy.

 **Shange, Ntozake. *Betsey Brown: a novel*, FIC SHA**


This novel about a black family living in St. Louis in 1957 centers on Betsey, 13, who is restless, wants to "be somebody" and is being bused to a white school. Her mother and grandmother oppose and her father supports integration. When the father plans to take Betsey and her siblings to demonstrate against a racist hotel, the mother leaves home. Shange has set her story in the autumn of 1959, the year St. Louis started to desegregate its schools. In May of 1954, in its ruling on Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka—a verdict now seen by many as the origin of the Civil Rights movement—the United States Supreme Court outlawed school segregation. The novel is firmly located in the wake of this landmark ruling; the plot of Shange's novel and the history of America's quest for integration during the Civil Rights era are fundamentally entwined.

 **Shulman, Irving, *West Side Story: a novelization*, FIC SHU**


Maria, a young Puerto Rican girl living in New York, and sister to Sharks gang leader Bernardo, falls in love with Tony, former leader of the rival gang, the Jets, setting the stage for tragedy.

 **Shute, Neil, *On the Beach*, FIC SHU**


A novel about the survivors of an atomic war, who face an inevitable end as radiation poisoning moves toward Australia from the north. They are the last generation, the innocent victims of an accidental war, living out their last days, making do with what they have, hoping for a miracle. As the deadly rain moves ever closer, the world as we know it winds toward an inevitable end..

 **Stegner, Wallace, *Angle of Repose*, FIC STE**

Story of four generations in the life of the Ward family, from America's western frontier to today. This thoughtful novel about a retired historian who researches and writes about his pioneer grandparents garnered Stegner a Pulitzer Prize.

 **Steinbeck, *Cup of Gold*, FIC STE**

In the 1670s Henry Morgan, a pirate and outlaw of legendary viciousness, ruled the Spanish Main. He ravaged the coasts of Cuba and America, striking terror wherever he went. Morgan was obsessive. He had two driving ambitions: one to possess the beautiful woman called La Santa Roja, the other, to conquer Panama, the "cup of gold."

 **Steinbeck, *The Pearl*, FIC STE**

Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the Gulf beds and getting by. Then he emerges from a dive with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, and with the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and a better life. This is a story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folktale. It explores the secrets of man's nature, the depths of evil, and the possibilities of love.

 **Stevenson, *Kidnapped*, FIC STE**

The story of young David Balfour, an orphan, whose miserly uncle cheats him out of his inheritance and schemes to have him kidnapped, shanghaied, and sold into slavery.

 **Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, FIC STE**

Treasure Island is one of the most famous books in English. A young boy, Jim Hawkins, lives quietly by the sea with mother and father. One day, Billy Bones comes to live with them and from that day everything is different. Jim meets Long John Silver, a man with one leg, and Jim and Long John Silver go far across the sea in a ship called the Hispaniola to Treasure Island.

 **Trumbo, *Johnny Got His Gun*, FIC TRU**

This is no ordinary war. This was a war to make the world safe for democracy. And if democracy was made safe, then nothing else mattered--not the millions of dead bodies, nor the thousands of ruined lives. This is the novel that never takes the easy way out: it is shocking, violent, terrifying, horrible, uncompromising, brutal and gruesome...but so is war.


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

Anne Tyler is known for her ability to explore

and make real the ways in which "unexceptional" people create families out of what might be seen as a hopeless muddle of failed or failing relationships. The Tull family - frazzled and sometimes abusive mother Pearl, missing father Beck, jealous and manipulative son Cody, troubled but finally contented daughter Jenny, and loving, placid baby Ezra - resembles families most of us know. We first witness Pearl's memories as she wanders back through her life while lying on her deathbed; next, Cody takes over, and by the end of the book we have experienced each family member's perspective. Out of their often differing stories a picture emerges of Pearl: of how her travelling salesman husband left her with three children to care for, how she tried to provide both emotional and financial support, and how she failed (more or less, depending upon the perspective) to give them a loving and secure home. Her children create families for themselves with varying degrees of success - Cody with his brother's girlfriend, Jenny with a second husband and built-in family, Ezra with his restaurant - but never seem able to make it through a single dinner together without conflict. Lovable in the complicated way only family members are.

 **Uchida, *Picture Bride*, FIC UCH**

Carrying a photograph of the man she is to marry but has yet to meet, young Hana Omiya arrives in San Francisco in 1917. She is one of several hundred Japanese "picture brides" whose arranged marriages brought them to America in the early 1900s. Her story is connected with others who are caught up in the cruel turmoil of World War II, when West Coast Japanese Americans are uprooted from their homes and imprisoned in desert detention camps. Enjoy this historical novel and discover Hana's strength to survive.

 **Verne, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, FIC VER**

Around the World in Eighty Days is one of the most exciting tales of adventure ever written. Accompanied by his faithful valet, Phileas Fogg has vowed to make his way across the globe in a mere 80 days. A breathless series of triumphs, mishaps, and near disasters strike the daring duo as they make use of every form of transportation to bring them closer to their travel goal.



Vreeland, Susan, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, FIC VRE

A professor reveals to a colleague a painting he has kept secret for years, which he believes is a Vermeer, and which has a history from the time of inception through World War II. The story of the painting begins to unfold in a series of events as it moves through each owner's hands and the secrets quietly surfaces, illuminating poignant moments in multiple lives.



Wartski, Mureen Crane, *Boat to Nowhere*, FIC WAR

Fleeing from agents of the new communist government in Vietnam, an old man and three children begin an endless and seemingly hopeless struggle for survival as boat people.



Watson, L., *Montana 1948*, FIC WAT

Could your family survive a scandal? In this historical novel, the events of that small-town summer forever alter David Hayden's view of his family: his self-effacing father, a sheriff who never wears his badge; his clear sighted mother; his uncle, a charming war hero and respected doctor; and the Hayden's lively, statuesque Sioux housekeeper, Marie Little Soldier, whose revelations are at the heart of the story. It is a tale of love and courage, of power abused, and of the terrible choice between family loyalty and justice.



Wells, H.G., *War of the Worlds*, FIC WEL

In this book, H. G. Wells invented the myth of invasion from outer space. Martians land near London, conquering all before them, and ruin the metropolis; the fate of civilization and even of the human race remains in doubt until the very last. The book is disturbingly realistic both because of its setting and because of its characters.

Wiesel, Elie, *Night*.



Wiesel, Elie, *The Accident*, FIC WIE

An Auschwitz survivor steps off a curb and into the path of a cab, and while unable to choose

between life and death, relieves the past. This is a story of one man's quest to understand the catastrophe that befell him, his family, and his people.



Wiesel, Elie, *Dawn*, FIC WIE

Elisha is a young Jewish man, a Holocaust survivor, and an Israeli freedom fighter in British-controlled Palestine; John Dawson is the captured English officer he will murder at dawn in retribution for the British execution of a fellow freedom fighter. The night-long wait for morning and death provides *Dawn*, Elie Wiesel's ever more timely novel, with its harrowingly taut, hour-by-hour narrative. Caught between the manifold horrors of the past and the troubling dilemmas of the present, Elisha wrestles with guilt, ghosts, and ultimately God as he waits for the appointed hour and his act of assassination. *Dawn* is an eloquent meditation on the compromises, justifications, and sacrifices that human beings make when they murder other human beings.

Agee, James

A Death in the Family

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

Anderson, Sherwood

Winesburg, Ohio

A collection of short stories lays bare the life of a small town in the Midwest.

Baldwin, James

Go Tell It On the Mountain

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

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.

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

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

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.

Dorris, Michael

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water

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

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

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

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

The Great Gatsby

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

Morrison, Toni

Sula

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

O'Connor, Flannery

A Good Man is Hard to Find

Social awareness, the grotesque, and the need for faith characterize these stories of the contemporary South.

Parks, Gordon

The Learning Tree

A fictional study of a black family in a small Kansas town in the 1920s.

Plath, Sylvia

The Bell Jar

The heartbreaking story of a talented young woman's descent into madness.

Poe, Edgar Allan

Great Tales and Poems

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

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.

Salinger, J.D.

The Catcher in the Rye

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

Sinclair, Upton

The Jungle

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

Steinbeck, John

The Grapes of Wrath

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

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

Uncle Tom's Cabin

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

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.

Wells, H.G.

The Time Machine

A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.

Welty, Eudora

Thirteen Stories

A collection of short stories about people and life in the deep South.

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

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

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

Balzac, Honore de

Pere Goriot

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

Borges, Jorge Luis

Labyrinths

An anthology of literary fireworks based on Borges' favorite symbol.

Bronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre

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

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.

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

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

Eliot, George

The Mill on the Floss

Maggie is miserable because her brother disapproves of her choices of romances.

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.

Flaubert, Gustave

Madame Bovary

In her extramarital affairs, a bored young wife seeks unsuccessfully to find the emotional experiences she craves.

Forster, E.M.

A Passage to India

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

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.

Gogol, Nikolai

The Overcoat

Russian tales of good and evil.

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.

Grass, Gunter

The Tin Drum

Oskar describes the amoral conditions through which he has lived in Germany, both during and after the Hitler regime.

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.

Kafka, Franz

The Trial

A man is tried for a crime he knows nothing about, yet for which he feels guilt.

Lawrence, D.H.

Sons and Lovers

An autobiographical novel about a youth torn between a dominant working-class father and a possessive genteel mother.

Mann, Thomas

Death in Venice

In this novella, an author becomes aware of a darker side of himself when he visits Venice.

Orwell, George

Animal Farm

Animals turn the tables on their masters.

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.

Remarque, Erich Maria

All Quiet on the Western Front

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

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.

Shelley, Mary W.

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.

Tan, Amy

The Joy Luck Club

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

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.

Biography/History

Angelou, Maya

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

An African-American writer traces her coming of age.

Ashe, Arthur and Arnold Rampersad.

Days of Grace

Biography of a highly respected tennis star and citizen of the world who dies of AIDS.

Baker, Russell

Growing Up

A columnist with a sense of humor takes a gentle look at his childhood in Baltimore during the Depression.

Berenbaum, Michael

The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as told in the United States

Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Brown, Dee

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee

A narrative of the white man's conquest of the American land as the Indian victims experienced it.

Cooke, Alistair

Alistair Cooke's America

A history of the continent, with anecdotes and insight into what makes America work.

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.

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.

Curie, Eve

Madame Curie

In sharing personal papers and her own memories, a daughter pays tribute to her mother, a scientific genius.

Delany, Sara and A. Elizabeth with Amy Hill Hearth

Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years

Two daughters of former slaves tell their stories of fighting racial and gender prejudice during the 20th century.

Epstein, Norrie

Friendly Shakespeare: A Thoroughly Painless Guide to the Best of the Bard.

Gain a perspective on Shakespeare's works through these sidelights, interpretations, anecdotes, and historical insights.

Frank, Anne

The Diary of a Young Girl

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

Franklin, Benjamin

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

Considered one of the most interesting autobiographies in English.

Haley, Alex

Roots

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

Hersey, John

Hiroshima

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

Karlsen, Carol

The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England

The status of women in colonial society affects the Salem witch accusations.

Keller, Helen

The Story of My Life

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.

King, Martin Luther, Jr.

A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.

King's most important writings are gathered together in one source.

Kovic, Ron

Born on the Fourth of July

Paralyzed in the Vietnam War, 21-year-old Ron Kovic received little support from his country and its government.

Machiavelli, Niccolo

The Prince

A treatise giving the absolute ruler practical advice on ways to maintain a strong central government.

Malcom X, with Alex Haley

The Autobiography of Malcom X

Traces the transformation of a controversial Black Muslim figure from street hustler to religious and national leader.

Marx, Karl

The Communist Manifesto

Expresses Marx's belief in the inevitability of conflict between social classes and calls on the workers of the world to unite and revolt.

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.

Maybury-Lewis, David

Millenium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World

Profiles members of several tribal cultures.

McPherson, James

Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era

From the Mexican War to Appomattox, aspects of the Civil War are examined.

Mills, Kay

This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer

Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper's daughter, uses her considerable courage and singing talent to become a leader in the civil rights movement.

Plato

The Republic

Plato creates an ideal society where justice is equated with health and happiness in the state and the individual.

Rogosin, Donn

Invisible Men: Life in Baseball's Negro Leagues

Negro League players finally gain recognition for their contributions to baseball.

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

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

Tuchman, Barbara

A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century

Tuchman uses the example of a single feudal lord to trace the history of the 14th century.

Williams, Juan

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-65

From Brown vs. the Board of Education to the Voting Rights Act, Williams outlines the social and political gains of African-Americans

Yolen, Jane

Favorite Folktales From Around the World

Yolen frames these powerful tales with explanations of historical and literary significance.

Science

Attenborough, David

The Living Planet: A Portrait of the Earth

Various habitats expand the vision of Planet Earth.

Bronowski, Jacob

The Ascent of Man

A scientist's history of the human mind and the human condition.

Carson, Rachel

Silent Spring

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

Darwin, Charles

The Origin of Species

The classic exposition of the theory of evolution by natural selection.

Hawking, Stephen

A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes

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

Leopold, Aldo

A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There

Leopold shares his present and future visions of a natural world.

Social Science

Campbell, Joseph

The Power of Myth

Explores themes and symbols from world religions and their relevance to humankind's spiritual journey today.

Hamilton, Edith

Mythology

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

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

Terkel, Studs

Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession

This kaleidoscope covers the full range of America's views on racial issues.

Drama

Beckett, Samuel

Waiting for Godot

Powerful, symbolic portrayal of the human condition.

Brecht, Bertolt

Mother Courage and Her Children

A product of the Nazi era, Mother Courage is a feminine "Everyman" in a play on the futility of war.

Chekhov, Anton

The Cherry Orchard

The orchard evokes different meanings for the impoverished aristocrat and the merchant who buys it.

Ibsen, Henrik

A Doll's House

A woman leaves her family to pursue personal freedom.

Marlowe, Christopher

Doctor Faustus

First dramatization of the medieval legend of a man who sold his soul to the devil.

Miller, Arthur

Death of a Salesman

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

O'Neill, Eugene

Long Day's Journey Into Night

A tragedy set in 1912 in the summer home of an isolated, theatrical family.

Sartre, Jean Paul

No Exit

A modern morality play in which three persons are condemned to hell because of crimes against humanity.

Shakespeare, William

Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet,

Macbeth, Twelfth Night, others.

Shaw, Bernard

Man and Superman, Saint Joan, Pygmalion, others.

Sophocles

Oedipus Rex

Classical tragedy of Oedipus who unwittingly killed his father, married his mother and brought the plague to Thebes.

Wilde, Oscar

The Importance of Being Earnest

Comedy exposing quirks and foibles of Victorian society.

Wilder, Thornton

Our Town

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.

Poetry

Angelou, Maya

And Still I Rise

Poems reflecting themes from her autobiography.

Brooks, Gwendolyn

Selected Poems

Poetry focusing on the lives of African American residents of Northern urban ghettos, particularly women.

Cummings, E.E.

Complete Poems, 1904-1962

Prepared directly from the original manuscripts, preserving the original typography and format.

Dickinson, Emily

The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson

A chronological arrangement of all known Dickinson poems and fragments.

Donne, John

The Complete Poetry of John Donne

Poems distinguished by wit, profundity of thought, passion and subtlety.

Eliot, T.S.

The Waste Land

A poem of despair by one of the most important modern poets in English.

Frost, Robert

The Poetry of Robert Frost

Collected works reflecting both flashing insight and practical wisdom.

Giovanni, Nikki

My House

The poems in this collection deal with love, family, nature, friends, music, aloneness, blackness, and Africa.

Hughes, Langston

Selected Poems

Poems selected by Hughes shortly before his death in 1967, representing work from his entire career.

Keats, John

Complete Poems

Among the greatest odes in English, written by a genius who died young.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth

The Poetical Works of Longfellow

Includes "The Song of Hiawatha" and "The Courtship of Miles Standish."

Sandburg, Carl

Complete Poems

Sandburg celebrates industrial and agricultural America and the common people.

Thomas, Dylan

Poems of Dylan Thomas

Poetry by a "word magician" with a powerful imagination.

Williams, William Carlos

Selected Poems

Williams' poetry is firmly rooted in the commonplace details of American life.