Titles from Free Response Questions
Adapted from the original lists of Norma J. Wilkerson and S. Andrea (Norman Public Schools)

The following works have been referred to in the AP English Literature and Composition Exam from 1973-2003.

All texts marked ** can be found in the classroom and checked out through Mrs. Mello.

All texts found online must be approved by Mrs. Mello. Most online texts can be found at bibliomania.com

A Absalom, Absalom by William Faulkner (76, 00) Novel
The story of Thomas Sutpen, an enigmatic stranger who came to Jefferson in the early 1830s to wrest his mansion out of the muddy bottoms of the north Mississippi wilderness. He was a man, Faulkner said, "who wanted sons and the sons destroyed him."

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (80, 82, 85, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99) Novel
A young boy living in mid-nineteenth century Missouri relates the many adventures that he and his friend, an escaped slave, experience as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

Agnes of God by John Pielmeier (00) - Play-A psychiatrist comes to examine a seemingly sweet, innocent nun accused of secretly killing her illegitimate baby. But the nun claims to remember nothing at all about a child.

**The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton (97, 02, 03) Novel
Set in 1870s New York, THE AGE OF INNOCENCE examines the tyranny of tradition and family heritage—and the tragic consequences of breaking society’s unspoken rules.

Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood (00) Novel
Grace Marks has been convicted for her involvement in the vicious murders of her employer, the wealthy Thomas Kinnear, and of Nancy Montgomery, his housekeeper and mistress. Some believe Grace is innocent; others think her evil or insane. Now serving a life sentence after a stint in Toronto's lunatic asylum, Grace herself claims to have no memory of the murders.

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren (00, 02) Novel
All the King's Men (1949) is the fictionalized account of the rise and fall of a backwoods rebel - a story inspired by the rule (and abuse of power) of Louisiana's colorful state governor (1928-32) and Democratic U.S. Senator (1932-35), notorious Huey Pierce Long - "The Kingfish."

All My Sons by Arthur Miller (85, 90) Play
All My Sons is concerned with the fortunes of the Keller and Deever families. During the war Joe Keller and Herbert Deever ran a machine shop which made airplane parts. Deever was sent to prison because the firm turned out defective parts, causing the deaths of many men. Keller went free and made a lot of money. The twin shadows of this catastrophe and the fact that the young Keller son was reported missing during the war dominate the action. The love affair of Chris Keller and Ann Deever, the bitterness of George Deever returned from the war to find his father in prison and his father's partner free, are all set in a structure of almost unbearable power. The climax showing the reaction of a son to his guilty father is fitting conclusion to a play electrifying in its intensity.

**All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy (95, 96) Novel
At once a Western, a picaresque adventure, and a coming-of-age novel, suspenseful, wryly funny, and elegiac, All the Pretty Horses is the story of John Grady Cole, the last of a long line of west Texas ranchers. Upon his grandfather's death and his parents' divorce, the sixteen-year-old Cole finds himself landless, penniless, and possessed of skills that mean nothing in a country transformed by highways and a world war, where cowboys are as doomed and marginal as the Indians they once displaced. With his friend Lacey Rawlins, John Grady sets off for Mexico. They have no idea what they will find there: on their map, the area south of the Rio Grande is blank. They have between them two horses, a rifle, and their bedrolls.
America is in the Heart by Carlos Bulosan (95) Novel You're a Filipino...living in your own house, free to walk your suburban streets, free to go to any school you wish, free to work in an office, free to interact with anyone you please...but you're not in the Philippines. Have you ever thought about the struggle of your previous generations in order to have this freedom you often neglect? This book is an awakening of spirit and will command your heart to appreciate what Carlos Bulosan and those like him suffered for.

**An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser (81, 82, 95, 03) Novel** The classic depiction of the harsh realities of American life, the dark side of the American Dream, and one man's doomed pursuit of love and success.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy (80, 91, 99, 03) Novel Anna Karenina has beauty, social position, wealth, a husband, and an adored son, but her existence seems empty. When she meets the dashing officer Count Vronsky she rejects her marriage and turns to him to fulfill her passionate nature -- with devastating results. One of the world's greatest novels, Anna Karenina is both an immortal drama of personal conflict and social scandal and a vivid, richly textured panorama of nineteenth-century Russia.

Another Country by James Baldwin (95) Novel Set in Greenwich Village, Harlem, and France, among other locales, Another Country is a novel of passions—sexual, racial, political, artistic—that is stunning for its emotional intensity and haunting sensuality, depicting men and women, blacks and whites, stripped of their masks of gender and race by love and hatred at the most elemental and sublime. In a small set of friends, Baldwin imbues the best and worst intentions of liberal America in the early 1970s.

**Antigone by Sophocles (79, 80, 90, 94, 99, 03) Play** Oedipus, the former ruler of Thebes, has died. Now, when his young daughter Antigone defies her uncle, Kreon, the new ruler, because he has prohibited the burial of her dead brother, she and he enact a primal conflict between young and old, woman and man, individual and ruler, family and state, courageous and self-sacrificing reverence for the gods of the earth and perhaps self-serving allegiance to the gods of the sky."

Anthony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare (80, 91) Play A magnificent drama of love and war, this riveting tragedy presents one of Shakespeare's greatest female characters—the seductive, cunning Egyptian queen Cleopatra. The Roman leader Mark Antony, a virtual prisoner of his passion for her, is a man torn between pleasure and virtue, between sensual indolence and duty . . . between an empire and love.

Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz by Mordecai Richler (94) Play Set in 1948 Montreal in a Jewish ghetto, the title character suffers through years of self-abuse in an effort to become something of substance.

Armies of the Night by Norman Mailer (76) Novel "The Armies of the Night" is Norman Mailer's first hand account of the events surrounding the march on the Pentagon in Washington D.C. in the fall of 1967. He begins by quoting a news story from "Time" which speaks of his drunken behavior at an event the night before, and then goes on to say that he wants to tell what really happened. Essentially he explains his actions during that weekend as an attempt to wake people out of their lethargy about the war. He felt that even by antagonizing people, he would be helping to energize support for the anti-war movement. Other people involved in the march were Noam Chbosky, the linguist, Robert Lowell, the poet and Dwight MacDonald, the literary critic. The book, according to Mailer, applies the techniques of the novelist to the recounting of history.

**As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner (78, 89, 90, 94, 01) Novel** The members of the Bundren family must take the body of Addie, matriarch of the family, to the town where Addie wanted to be buried. Along the way, we listen to each of the members on the macabre pilgrimage, while Faulkner heaps upon them various flavors of disaster.
**As You Like It by William Shakespeare** (92) Play
As You Like It tracks the travails of young lovers and despotic rulers as they chase one another from the palace of Duke Frederick to the Forest of Arden. Shakespeare's classic work weaves together greedy inheritors, despotic rulers, a cross-dressing princess, and some magic before drawing to a dramatic close.

**Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man by James Weldon Johnson** (02) Novel
Johnson’s theme of moral cowardice sets his tragic story of a mulatto in the United States above other sentimental narratives. The unnamed narrator, the offspring of a black mother and white father, tells of his coming-of-age at the beginning of the 20th century. Light-skinned enough to pass for white but emotionally tied to his mother’s heritage, he ends up a failure in his own eyes after he chooses to follow the easier path while witnessing a white mob set fire to a black man.

**The Awakening by Kate Chopin** (87, 88, 91, 92, 95, 97, 99, 02) Novel
A pioneering short novel, originally published in 1899, is the story of a nineteenth-century woman who realizes that her marriage is stifling and restrictive, recognizes her own sexuality, and seeks independence—with devastating consequences.

**The Bear** by William Faulkner (94) Short novel
The story follows sixteen-year-old Ike McCaslin as he embarks upon his sixth year of an annual hunting trip and the experiences he undergoes during his two weeks in the hunting camp.

**Beloved by Toni Morrison** (90, 99, 01, 03) Novel
In the troubled years following the Civil War, the spirit of a murdered child haunts the Ohio home of a former slave. This angry, destructive ghost breaks mirrors, leaves its fingerprints in cake icing, and generally makes life difficult for Sethe and her family; nevertheless, the woman finds the haunting oddly comforting for the spirit is that of her own dead baby, never named, thought of only as Beloved.

**Belinda** by Maria Edgeworth (2009)

**Bend in the River by V. S. Naipaul** (03) Novel
A Bend in the River chronicles both an internal journey and a physical trek into the heart of Africa as it explores the themes of personal exile and political and individual corruption.

**Benito Cereno by Herman Melville** (89) Novel (etext)

**Billy Budd by Herman Melville** (79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 99, 02) Novel (etext)

**The Birthday Party by Harold Pinter** (89, 97) Play
A deft psychological comedy about a reclusive man in a shabby seaside boarding house who is terrorized by two sinister visitors.

**Bleak House by Charles Dickens** (94, 00) Novel
Dickens weaves romance and murder with social criticism—namely, the needless misery that results from an inefficient and institutional legal system. Despite the formidable darkness that the past can hold, Dickens reveals hope for happiness and love.

**Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya** (94, 96, 97, 99) Novel
A bildungsroman about a young Mexican-American boy, Antonio, in a New Mexican village during the 1940s. He faces a choice that will determine the course of his entire life: to follow his father's family's nomadic lifestyle or to settle down to agriculture as his mother's family has done. Anaya draws on the Spanish-American folklore with which he grew up in this unique depiction of a Hispanic childhood in the Southwest.

**The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison** (95) Novel
The Bluest Eye is the story of a black girl who prays—with unforeseen consequences—for her eyes to turn blue so she will be accepted.

**Bone: A Novel by Fae M. Ng** (03) Novel
In this profoundly moving novel, Fae Myenne Ng takes readers into the hidden heart of San Francisco’s Chinatown, to a world of family secrets, hidden shames, and the lost bones of a “paper father”.

**Brave New World by Aldous Huxley** (89) Novel
**Brighton Rock** by Graham Greene (79) Novel A gang war is raging through the dark underworld of Brighton. Pinkie, malign and ruthless, has killed a man. Believing he can escape retribution, he is unprepared for the courageous, life-embracing Ida Arnold, who is determined to avenge a death....

**The Brothers Karamazov** by Fyodor Dostoevsky (90) Novel it is the story of a patricide and the four sons who each had a motive for murder: Dmitry, the sensualist; Ivan, the intellectual; Aloysha, the mystic; and twisted, cunning Smerdyakov, the bastard child.

**Candida** by George Bernard Shaw (80) Play CANDIDA presents the complicated relationship between a vicar, his wife, and her young admirer.

**Candide** by Voltaire (80, 86, 87, 91, 95, 96) Novel The book traces the picaresque adventures of the guileless Candide, who is forced into the army, flogged, shipwrecked, betrayed, robbed, separated from his beloved Cunegonde, tortured by the Inquisition, et cetera, all without losing his resilience and will to live and pursue a happy life.

**The Caretaker** by Harold Pinter (85) Play Aston brings home a tramp, Davies (possibly called Jenkins) after a fight in a cafe. Mick (possibly Aston's brother) and Aston fight over possession of Davies/Jenkins and the room in which Aston and Davies/Jenkins sleep, while each of the three characters pursue their individual dreams.

**Catch-22** by Joseph Heller (82, 85, 87, 89, 94, 01, 03) Novel Set in the closing months of World War II in an American bomber squadron off Italy, Catch-22 is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian, who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him. Catch-22 is a microcosm of the twentieth-century world as it might look to someone dangerously sane.

**The Catcher in the Rye** by J.D. Salinger (01) Novel Holden Caulfield, knowing he is to be expelled from school, decides to leave early. He spends three days in New York City and tells the story of what he did and suffered there.

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** by Tennessee Williams (00) Play CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF is a story of an affluent Southerner, Big Daddy Pollitt, who is dying of cancer. The family gathers at the Mississippi mansion for his birthday, aware that this may be his last. Big Daddy does not know, however, because the family doctor, eldest son Gooper, and his wife, Mae, decide to keep the fact concealed from him.

**Cat's Eye** by Margaret Atwood (94) Novel "Cat's Eye" presents the retrospective of Elaine Risley, a middle-aged acclaimed artist who discovers that she cannot move into the future as she is still trapped in the past, because of the childhood trauma caused by Cordelia, Elaine's tormentor and soul-mate. Elaine was so deeply scarred by the sinister girl's "power-games" of her childhood years that she lost herself, her memories, and "became" a cat's eye: cool as cold marble, detached, and almost devoid of feeling.

**The Centaur** by John Updike (81) Novel In a small Pennsylvania town in the late 1940s, schoolteacher George Caldwell yearns to find some meaning in his life. Alone with his teenage son for three days in a blizzard, Caldwell sees his son grow and change as he himself begins to lose touch with his life.

**Ceremony** by Leslie Marmon Silko (94, 96, 97, 99, 01, 03) Novel Tayo, a young Native American, has been a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II, and the horrors of captivity have almost eroded his will to survive. His return to the Laguna Pueblo reservation only increases his feeling of estrangement and alienation. While other returning soldiers find easy refuge in alcohol and senseless violence, Tayo searches for another kind of comfort and resolution.

**Cherry Bomb** by Maxine Clair (2010)

**The Cherry Orchard** by Anton Chekov (77) Play It presents the final days in residence at their estate of the perfectly gracious but wildly impractical Madame.
Ranevskaya and her family. Wealthy landowners now deeply in debt, these noble gentry have come onto hard times in the period preceding the Communist Revolution in 1917. They try desperately to maintain their aristocratic lifestyle, ignoring an oncoming bourgeoisie juggernaut: the coarse but competent power of an unstoppable new social order. Fading memories of past glory collide with the reality of present chaos, and inescapable confrontation with the politics of a new world.

“Civil Disobedience” by Henry David Thoreau (76) Essay (etext) 1849 essay on the right and obligation to follow your conscience, with annotated text and related links.

**The Color Purple by Alice Walker** (92, 94, 95, 96, 97) Novel The story of Celie, a Black woman in the South. Celie writes letters to God in which she tells about her life—her roles as daughter, wife, sister, and mother.

_Coming Through the Slaughter_ by Michael Ondaatje (01) Novel Based on the life of cornet playing Buddy Bolden, one of the legendary jazz pioneers of the turn-of-the-century New Orleans. Ostensibly a novel, this book is also a documentary recreation of Bolden's life, expressed through a collage of fragmented memoirs.

**Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton** (85, 87, 91, 95, 96) Novel A beautifully told and profoundly compassionate story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set in the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s.

_Crime and Punishment_ by Fyodor Dostoevsky (76, 79, 80, 82, 88, 96, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03) Novel Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, commits a random murder without remorse or regret, imagining himself to be a great man far above moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous cat-and-mouse game with a suspicious police investigator, his own conscience begins to torment him and he seeks sympathy and redemption from Sonya, a downtrodden prostitute.

“The Crisis” by Thomas Paine (76) Essays (etext) (A series of tracts concerning the revolution in America)

**The Crucible by Arthur Miller** (83, 86, 89) Play

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**Daisy Miller by Henry James** (97, 03) Novel (etext) The story of a young American girl traveling Europe through the eyes of an admirer.

_Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel_ (01) Short Novel This is the story of the summer of 1936 and a family of a poor Irish family making their way through it.

_David Copperfield by Charles Dickens_ (78, 83) Novel (etext) David Copperfield, the narrator, is orphaned at a tender age and raised first by his brutal stepfather (who halts his schooling and sends him to work in a factory—as did Dickens's own father), then by a kindly aunt. He trains for a career in law, but eventually becomes a writer. An ill-advised marriage brings him considerable unhappiness, but not long after his wife's death he is reunited with his childhood sweetheart.

**“The Dead” by James Joyce** (97) Short story (etext) It's set at the Christmas party of Gabriel Conroy's music-loving aunts, where three generations gather each year for a holiday feast. This year, a guest's song awakens a memory for Gabriel's wife and revives a long-buried passion.

**The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy** (86) Short novel (etext) Ivan Ilyich, a respected lawyer and jurist, is dead. His colleagues make all the right sounds, but can't help wondering how his death will affect their careers. We go back over his life, see how Ivan did all the right things, played the various social and professional games with the proper amount of seriousness, until he realized the gnawing pain in his side was mortal. Then he went through all the stages of denial, terror, rage at his friends and loved ones, and the realization of all he had ignored to get ahead. Only in facing death does he realize the meaning of life.
Death of Salesman by Arthur Miller (86, 88, 94, 03) Play Willy Loman, a sixty-year-old traveling salesman, is having trouble lately because he can’t seem to keep his mind on the present. He keeps drifting back and forth between reality and memory, looking for exactly where his life went wrong.

Delta Wedding by Eudora Welty (97) Novel Delta Wedding by Eudora Welty creatively unfolds through the overheard thoughts of the members of the Fairchild family. The oversized clan deals with a massive amount of external and internal issues that focus on both the unity and the conflict within this tight-knit Southern family.

Desire under the Elms by Eugene O’Neil (81) Play

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler (97) Novel 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.

The Diviners by Margaret Laurence (95) Novel A middle-aged writer struggles to understand people and events that have shaped her life. With unusual wit and depth, she recognizes that her daughter needs solitude and work as much as she need the love of her family.

Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlow (79, 86, 89) Marlowe’s Dr. Faustus is the story of Doctor John Faustus, a scholar in fifteenth century Germany, who has become bored with his studies. He feels he has achieved greatness in all subjects and turns to necromancy as a means to achieve power. He then has his servant Wagner summon two great German scholars. While Faustus awaits their arrival, the Good Angel and the Evil Angel appear to him. They each try to convince him of the side they represent. When the two scholars learn that Faustus is inside with Valdes and Cornelius, they fear he has fallen into the practice of magic.

When Faustus tries an incantation for the first time, Mephistopheles appears and Faustus questions him about Lucifer. Mephistopheles’ maintains that hell is wherever God is not present. Faustus has Mephistopheles deliver Lucifer a proposal in which Faustus will exchange his soul for twenty-four years of unlimited power.

**A Doll House by Henrik Ibsen (83, 87, 88, 95) Play (online) A Doll’s House traces the awakening of Nora Helmer from her unexamined life of domestic comfort. Ruled her whole life by either her father or her husband, Nora must question the foundation of everything she believes in when her marriage is put to the test. Having borrowed money from a man of ill-repute named Krogstad by forging her father’s signature, she was able to pay for a trip to Italy to save her sick husband’s life (he was unaware of his condition and the loan, believing that the money came from Nora’s father). Since then, she has had to contrive ways to pay back her loan, growing particularly concerned with money.

The Dollmaker by Harriet Arnot (91)

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes (01) Novel (online) DON QUIXOTE IS A MIDDLE-AGED GENTLEMAN FROM the region of La Mancha in central Spain. Obsessed with the chivalrous ideals touted in books he has read, he decides to take up his lance and sword to defend the helpless and destroy the wicked.

Dreaming in Cuban by Cristina Garcia (03) Novel Three generations of Cuban women dominate this marvelously told story of a family divided by politics and the Castro revolution in Cuba.

Dutchman by Amiri Baraka / Leroi Jones (03) Play an encounter between a white woman and a black intellectual exposes the suppressed anger and hostility of American blacks toward the dominant white culture.
**Emma** by Jane Austen (96) Novel (online) The protagonist, Emma Woodhouse, is a wealthy, pretty, self-satisfied young woman. She is left alone with her hypochondriac father. Her governess, Miss Taylor, marries a neighbor, Mr. Weston, and blind to her own feelings, he indulges himself with meddlesome and unsuccessful attempts at matchmaking among her friends and neighbors. She makes a protégée of Harriet Smith, an illegitimate girl of no social status and tries to manipulate a marriage between Harriet and Mr. Elton, a young clergyman, who has set his sight on Emma. Emma has feelings about Mr. Weston’s son. When Harriet becomes interested in George Knightley, a neighboring squire who had been her mentor and friend, Emma examines her own conduct. She has always regarded Knightley as hers, and finally finds her destiny in marriage with him. Harriet, who is left to decide for herself, marries Robert Martin, a young farmer.

**An Enemy of the People** by Henrik Ibsen (76, 80, 87, 99, 01) Play (online) Dr. Thomas Stockmann, a public-minded doctor in a small town famous for its public baths, discovers that the water supply for the baths is contaminated and has probably been the cause of some illness among the tourists who are the town’s economic lifeblood. In his effort to clean up the water supply, Dr. Stockmann runs into political cowards, sold-out journalists, shortsighted armchair economists, and a benighted citizenry. His own principled idealism exacerbates the conflict. The well-meaning doctor is publicly labeled an enemy of the people, and he and his family are all but driven out of the town he was trying to save.

**Equus** by Peter Shaffer (92, 99, 00, 01) Play Peter Shaffer’s 1972 play EQUUS is an original and often shocking portrayal of the relationship between Martin Dysart, a child psychiatrist, and Alan Strang, a young man who has blinded six horses with a spike. Shaffer’s striking message is that modern technology and convenience has weakened Man by removing his capacity for worship and his understanding of pain.

**Ethan Frome** by Edith Wharton (80, 85, 03) Novel (online) Ethan Frome is the story of a poor farmer, lonely and downtrodden, his wife Zeena, and her cousin, the enchanting Mattie Silver.

**The Eumenides** by Aeschylus (in The Oresteia) (96) Ancient Play (online) After murdering his mother, Clytemnestra, and her lover, Aegisthus, Orestes flees Argos and goes to Delphi. There, he seeks protection at the Temple of Apollo because the avenging Furies are tormenting him, infuriated that Clytemnestra has been slain. Orestes doesn’t think that he deserves any punishment for his actions, since he was merely avenging the death of his father Agamemnon, whom Clytemnestra slew in the bathtub after the Trojan War. In Delphi, Apollo puts the Furies to sleep and instructs Orestes to journey now to Athens, where Athena will offer him greater assistance.

**The Fall** by Albert Camus (81) Novel In Amsterdam, the ex-lawyer Jean-Baptiste Clamence meets a fellow Frenchman in a seedy bar, and proceeds to give an account of his fall from social eminence. The book is told in the form of a monologue by Clamence, but Camus loads it with plenty of imagery.

**A Farewell to Arms** by Ernest Hemingway (99) Novel This is the story of Lieutenant Henry, an American, and Catherine Barkley, a British nurse. The two meet in Italy, and almost immediately Hemingway sets up the central tension of the novel: the tenuous nature of love in a time of war.

**Fasting, Feasting** by Anita Desai (2008)

**The Father** by August Strindberg (01) Novel In a society where a husband and father is thought to be the authority in his family, the Captain, a soldier, a scientist and a wealthy man, has one set of ideas about his daughter’s life and his wife has another. The Captain is used to being obeyed in all things, and expects that his desires will prevail. Laura, his wife, has other ideas. With tragic effect, she suggests to him that perhaps he is not the father after all.
**Fathers and Sons** by Ivan Turgenev (90)

_Faust_ by Johann Goethe (02, 03) Novel
This dramatic poem in two parts is Goethe’s greatest work. The poem is based on the legend of a man who sells his soul to the devil and deals with the man’s sense of alienation and his need to come to terms with the world as it is.

_The Federalist_ by Alexander Hamilton (76) Letters (online)

_Fences_ by August Wilson (02, 03) Play
The story of Troy Maxon, an illiterate garbage collector who has become embittered by a white-controlled system that has denied him the baseball stardom he feels he deserves.

**A Fine Balance** by Rohinton Mistry (03) Novel
The story is based in 1975 in an unidentified city near the sea in India, riddled with poverty and teeming with beggars. Mistry places four pivotal characters in this squalid city. Mrs. Dina Dalal, 40-ish, poor and widowed after only three years of marriage. Determined to remain financially independent and to avoid a second marriage, she takes in a boarder and two Hindu tailors to sew dresses for an export company. Maneck, is the son of an old school friend of Dina’s who has been sent to college because the family business is failing; and the two tailors are Ishvar and his nephew Om, who have left their village in an effort to escape the repressive caste system.

_Fifth Business_ by Robertson Davis (00)

_For Whom the Bell Tolls_ by Ernest Hemingway (03) Novel
The book chronicles an American dynamiter’s mission to blow up a bridge controlled by Spanish fascists. The book doesn’t focus on the war as a whole but rather on the toll war takes on the people living in it.

**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley (89, 00, 03) Novel (online) A young Swiss student discovers the secret of animating lifeless matter and, by assembling body parts, creates a monster who vows revenge on his creator after being rejected from society.

**The Good Soldier** by Ford Maddox Ford (00) Novel
The novel tells the story of the 9 year friendship between two couples. The Good Soldier of the title has a “bad heart” and a wife he doesn’t love. The narrator’s wife has a “bad heart” also and when the two couples meet in Europe they seem to form an ideal foursome. However, as the story unfolds, the narrator reveals that none of these people are who they seem to be on the surface.

_G The Grapes of Wrath_ by John Steinbeck (95, 03) Novel
The story of the hardship
and oppression suffered by migrant laborers during the Great Depression.

**Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens (79, 80, 88, 89, 92, 95, 96, 00, 01, 02, 03) Novel (online) Great Expectations is a coming of age story that revolves around the life of one man Pip. From the time he was seven years old until he was in his mid-thirties, Pip shows us the important events in his life that shaped who he became. Along the way, he acquires a menagerie of different acquaintances and friends that influence him in his decisions and goals for his life.

**The Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald (82, 83, 88, 91, 92, 97, 00, 02) Novel The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan.

**Go Tell It on the Mountain** by James Baldwin (83, 88, 90) Novel Using as a frame the spiritual and moral awakening of 14-year-old John Grimes during a Saturday night service in a Harlem storefront church, Baldwin lays bare the secrets of a tormented black family during the depression. John’s parents, praying beside him, both wrestle with the ghosts of their sinful pasts—Gabriel, a preacher of towering hypocrisy, fathered an illegitimate child during his first marriage down South and refused to recognize his doomed bastard son; Elizabeth fell in love with a charming, free-spirited young man, followed him to New York, became pregnant with his son, and lost him before she could reveal her condition.

**Gulliver’s Travels** by Jonathan Swift (87, 89, 91) Novel (online) Shipwrecked and cast adrift, Lemuel Gulliver wakes to find himself on Lilliput, an island inhabited by little people, whose height makes their quarrels over fashion and fame seem ridiculous. His subsequent encounters - with the crude giants of Brobdingnag, the philosophical Houyhnhnms and brutish Yahoos - give Gulliver new, bitter insights into human behavior. Swift's savage satire views mankind in a distorted hall of mirrors as a diminished, magnified and finally bestial species, presenting us with an uncompromising reflection of ourselves.
except to serve men, have children, or educate new handmaids.

**Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad**
(76, 91, 94, 96, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03) Novel
(Online) In HEART OF DARKNESS, Marlow, the narrator, undertakes both an outer and an inner journey. The outer journey takes him into the heart of Africa, where he encounters representatives of every colonial stripe. Performing the work instead of simply reading it, Scott Brick emphasizes this aspect of Conrad's classic, clearly conveying class differences and a range of foreign accents, as well as pidgin. Conrad's prose is dense and complex, but Brick delivers it smoothly and gracefully. However, Marlow's inner journey--during which he confronts the mysterious Mr. Kurtz--remains too distant and intellectualized to fully capture the emotional charge of the moment.

**Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen**
(79, 92, 00, 02, 03) Play
(Online) Hedda, twenty-nine years old, has married down, is pregnant with an unwanted child, and bored by her husband. Before marriage she has flirted with the drunken poet Loevborg, a portrait of the playwright Strindberg, who hated Ibsen. She plots to the ruin of Loevborg by burning his manuscript on the future of civilization. Judge Brack, who lusts after Hedda, discovers that Hedda has instigated Loevborg's accidental suicide - he has died in a bordello.

**Henry IV, Parts I and II by William Shakespeare**
(80, 90) Plays

**Henry V by William Shakespeare**
(02) Play

**The Homecoming by Harold Pinter**
(78, 90) Play
The play is concerned with the return of Teddy, a professor of philosophy at an American college, to the North London house occupied by his father, uncle, and brothers, all of whom seem to operate on the fringes of working-class society, some distance from respectability. Teddy is accompanied by his wife, Ruth, who then finds herself at the centre of a series of Pinteresque power-struggles. The men's attitudes towards women are decidedly ambivalent, as represented by the father, Max's, description of his late wife: "Mind you, she wasn't such a bad woman. Even though it made me sick just to look at her rotten stinking face, she wasn't such a bad bitch". Max presents his wife in an even more ambivalent light later on when he says: "I've never had a whore under this roof before. Ever since your mother died". So, the mother is represented as having been both a mother-figure and a prostitute. This madonna/whore binary can be taken as representative of the archetypical models for women that are perpetuated by the conventions of a patriarchal society. One of the primary functions of *The Homecoming* is arguably to expose the limitations of these archetypes. Jessie, the dead mother, is a figure whose absence is central to the play.

**House Made of Dawn by N Scott Momaday**
(95) Novel
House Made of Dawn, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969, tells the story of a young American Indian named Abel, home from a foreign war and caught between two worlds: one his father's, wedding him to the rhythm of the seasons and the harsh beauty of the land; the other of industrial America, a goading him into a compulsive cycle of dissipation and disgust.

**The House of Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne**
(89) Novel
Hepzibah Pyncheon, an elderly woman and the current resident of the House of the Seven Gables, opens a tiny penny store in the house. She has been forced to do so because of a decline in the family fortune that reduced her to poverty. Phoebe Pyncheon, a seventeen year old relative, arrives from the country, wishing to stay at the House of the Seven Gables. Phoebe immediately brightens the dreary and decrepit house, and even helps Hepzibah establish her store. Holgrave tells Phoebe the history of the Pyncheon family, in particular the controversy surrounding the supposedly murderous Clifford. Clifford soon returns to the House of the Seven Gables after decades in prison. Now an old man, he is frail and weakly. A natural lover of beauty, he responds most strongly to the young and pretty Phoebe. Although he wishes to leave the house for Europe, Hepzibah admits to Clifford that they are now impoverished.
**The Iliad by Homer** (80) (Online)

*In the Lake of the Woods* by Tim O’Brien

(00) Novel Sometime between the night and late morning of September 19, 1986, a woman vanishes near Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota, "where the water was everything, vast and very cold, and where there were secret channels and portages and bays and tangled forests and islands without names." While the traditional locked-room mystery presents investigators—and readers—with the seemingly impossible, the disappearance of Kathy Wade poses too many possibilities, a wilderness of hypotheses. There are too many places she could have gone, too many things that could have happened to her.

**Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison** (76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 01, 03) Novel A classic from the moment it first appeared in 1952, *Invisible Man* chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the hellish levels of American intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he exists in a very peculiar state. "I am an invisible man," he says in his prologue. "When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination—indeed, everything and anything except me." But this is hard-won self-knowledge, earned over the course of many years.

**Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte** (78, 79, 80, 88, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 00) Novel (online) The story of an unhappy orphan and her life as a governess at Thornfield is filled with difficulty, including a shocking revelation on her wedding day.

**Jasmine by Bharati Mukherjee** (99) Novel Lifetimes ago, under a banyan tree in the village of Hasnapur, an astrologer cupped his ear ... and foretold my widowhood and exile," relates Jyoti, fifth cursed daughter in a family of nine. Though she can't escape fate, Jyoti reinvents herself time and again. She leaves her dusty Punjabi village to marry as Jasmine; travels rough, hidden airways and waters to America to reemerge as Jase, an illegal "day mummy" in hip Manhattan; and lands beached in Iowa's farmlands as Jane, mother to an adopted teenage Vietnamese refugee and "wife" to a banker.

**J. B. by Archibald MacLeish** (81, 94) Play Macleish’s modern rendition of the Book of Job does an adequate job of converting the serious tale to a modern almost circus like story. Although sardonic at times, he keeps the main focus intact: why do the righteous suffer?

**Joe Turner's Come and Gone by August Wilson** (00) Play August Wilson's play *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* is a fine example of a Black Nationalist writing that deals with the problems of race and the feelings of being a foreigner in your own land.

Johnny Got His Gub by Dalton Trumbo

(2006) Joe Bonham lies injured in a hospital bed. While conscious, Joe thinks back over scenes from his past: the night of his father's death and the night before he left his girlfriend Kareen to go to World War I. Before his family moved to Los Angeles, Joe grew up in Shale City, a small town in Colorado. He remembers small-town memories and images, such as the food his mother would prepare, the first time an airplane came to Shale City, and the night he lost his girlfriend, Diane, to his best friend, Bill Harper.

**The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan** (97, 03) Play Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

**Joseph Andrews by Henry Fielding** (99) Novel (Online) Joseph Andrews, refuses Lady Booby's advances, she discharges...
him, and Joseph—in the company of his old
tutor, Parson Adams (one of the great comic
figures of literature)—sets out from London
to visit his sweetheart, Fanny. Along the
way, the two travelers meet with a series of
adventures—some hilarious, some
heartstopping—in which through their own
innocence and honesty they expose the
hypocrisy and affectation of others. Joseph
Andrews started out as a parody of
Richardson's Pamela, but soon left that
purpose behind and now is regarded as the
first English realistic novel.

**Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy**
(76, 80, 85, 87, 95) Novel (Online) Hardy
presents
the individual pitted against a rigid and
conservative social system. Jude, a working-
class boy, pursues his ideal of a university
education. His meeting with Arabella and
subsequent marriage is a major setback.
The marriage fails, and Jude moves to
Christminster and attempts to enter the
university. Despite his hard work and
earnest effort, his dream is never realized.
He falls in love with his cousin, Sue. But Sue
knows that Jude is not free to marry, so she
gets engaged to Phillotson and later marries
him. Sue's marriage does not last, and she
returns to live with Jude. Both Jude and Sue
get their divorces and are free to marry, but
they delay and are never able to unite.

**Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare**
(82, 97) Play (Online) Julius Caesar returns
to Rome, victorious from battle. The crowd
in Rome is ecstatic, and they attempt to
crown him King three times. A group of
generals in his army become concerned
about Caesar's power and his penchant for
extreme and tyrannical actions. That night,
huge storms surround Rome, and strange,
supernatural things happen all over the city.
Cassius, Cinna, and Casca meet during the
night and discuss their desire to overthrow
Caesar from the throne. They believe they
should kill him. The three involve Decius
Brutus, Trebonius, Ligarus, and Metellus
Cimber in the growing conspiracy. They all,
except for Casca, go to Marcus Brutus' house
and convince him to join. The group
hatches a plan to kill Caesar at the Senate
the next day, each man drawing his sword
on Caesar at the same time. Cassius
pushes the group to kill Mark Antony,
Caesar's constant companion and ally, as
well. Marcus Brutus argues against this
action, saying that the bloodshed should be
kept to a minimum, and vengeful actions
should be avoided by the group.

**The Jungle by Upton Sinclair**
(77, 78, 82, 88, 89, 90, 96) Novel
Jurgis Rudkus and his family come to
America from Lithuania to seek their fortune.
They arrive in Chicago's stockyards district,
where the gigantic meatpacking plants
operate, and find employment performing
various tasks in the slaughterhouses.
Quickly, the family realizes that their dreams
of America and its wealth were painfully far
from reality. Instead of being a land of
promise, it is a land of interminable toil and
poverty. The workers at the meatpacking
plants are poorly paid, overworked and
subject to unfair labor practices and
dangerous working conditions. What's more,
the stockyards neighborhood is a pit of
poverty and squalor, with rat-infested
boarding houses, a smoldering garbage
dump on one end of the yards, and a large
sewage pit on the other end. Jurgis's family
finds that they all must work to survive,
including Jurgis's dying father, his pregnant
wife, her cousin, her uncle, and her
stepmother's children.

K

*Kiss of the Fur Queen* by Tomson Highway

**King Lear by William Shakespeare**
(77, 78, 82, 88, 89, 90, 96, 01, 03) Play (Online)
The play opens with King Lear deciding how
to retire his throne. He decides to divide his
land up among his three daughters.
Whichever daughter can lavish him with the
most praise and prove they love him most,
will get the best land. Regan and Goneril are
the first to profess their love to their father.
Lear is gratified and grants each a healthy
portion of land. He saves the last, but best
portion of land for his youngest and favorite
daughter, Cordelia. Cordelia, unfortunately,
is unwilling to lie to her father. She will not
allow herself to behave in the way her
sisters did. She simply states that she loves
Lear as much as any daughter should, no more, no less.

**A Lesson before Dying** by Ernest Gaines (99) Novel In a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, a young black man is about to go to the electric chair for murder. A white shopkeeper had died during a robbery gone bad; though the young man on trial had not been armed and had not pulled the trigger, in that time and place, there could be no doubt of the verdict or the penalty.

**Letters from an American Farmer** by de Crevecoeur (76)

**Light in August** by William Faulkner (79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 95, 99, 03) Novel Light in August is the story of Lena Grove’s search for the father of her unborn child, and features one of Faulkner’s most memorable characters: Joe Christmas, a desperate drifter consumed by his mixed ancestry.

**The Little Foxes** by Lillian Hellman (85, 90) Play "The Little Foxes" was a story about three siblings struggling for control over a family business. Primarily an indictment of capitalist motives, it was also a telling story of three individuals, and an investigation of their inner lives. This ability to blend strong politics with humane (though not sentimental) stories of individual struggles was one of Hellman’s great achievements.

**Long Day’s Journey into Night** by Eugene O’Neill (90, 03) Play In this play O’Neill explores the ties that bind members of a family into a unit, and also the ties that wound. The work is autobiographical and explores a dysfunctional family whose members are all addicted to one drug or another, or to one behavior or another. The father, a once widely acclaimed actor now had retreated to a shabby cottage near the sea. His wife, who resents the turn her life took when she married, retreats into drug induced fantasy the majority of her waking moments. The sons, torn apart by sibling rivalry and regularly attacked by their father, live in their own shadowland of missed dreams and promises.

**Lord Jim** by Joseph Conrad (77, 78, 82, 86, 00, 03) Novel (Online) The eponymous Jim is a young, good-looking, genial, and naive water-clerk on the *Patna*, a cargo ship plying Asian waters. He is, we are told, “the kind of fellow you would, on the strength of his looks, leave in charge of the deck.” He also harbors romantic fantasies of adventure and heroism—which are promptly scuttled one night when the ship collides with an obstacle and begins to sink. Acting on impulse, Jim jumps overboard and lands in a lifeboat, which happens to be bearing the unscrupulous captain and his cohorts away from the disaster. The *Patna*, however, manages to stay afloat. The foundering vessel is towed into port—and since the officers have strategically vanished, Jim is left to stand trial for abandoning the ship and its 800 passengers.

**Lord of the Flies** by William Golding (85) Novel The book describes in detail the horrific exploits of a band of young children who make a striking transition from civilized to barbaric.

**The Loved One** by Evelyn Waugh (89) Novel In Hollywood, at Whispering Glades, a full-service funeral home for departed greats, the anonymous Mr. Joyboy and Aimee Thanatogenos fall in love...with each other and their work. He is chief embalmer, she a crematorium cosmetician. They spend their days contentedly prepping the loved ones for a final appearance.

Into this idyllic scene comes Denis Barlow, aspiring poet and funerary colleague. But Denis is downscale, his employer the Happier Hunting Ground, a pet cemetery. Denis looks to Aimee for professional reconstruction, falls in love with her instead, and sets up a triangle that is literally more than Aimee can bear.

**Love Medicine** by Louise Erdrich (95) Novel A short story cycle narrated by a variety of different characters, the book chronicles the intertwined histories of Chippewa and mixed-blood families in North Dakota over half a century, laying bare the the ordeals and joys of twentieth-century
Native American life and evoking the continued relevance of homeland, humor, and storytelling to indigenous survival.

***"Love Song by J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot (85) Poem***

**Lysistrata by Aristophanes** (87) (Online)

**Macbeth by William Shakespeare** (83, 99, 03) Play (Online) Macbeth and his wife hatch a plot to kill the king under their own roof and frame the guards outside the king's bedroom for the murder. Although Macbeth has misgivings about killing the king, his wife convinces him that it is the thing to do. Macbeth kills Duncan with his wife's help, but he is plagued with guilt for the crime.

**Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert** (80, 85) Novel (Online) A married woman longs for romance and finds it in the arms of another man.

**Main Street by Sinclair Lewis** (87) Novel (online) in this classic satire of small-town America, beautiful young Carol Kennicott comes to Gopher Prairie, Minnesota, with dreams of transforming the provincial old town into a place of beauty and culture. But she runs into a wall of bigotry, hypocrisy and complacency. The first popular bestseller to attack conventional ideas about marriage, gender roles, and small town life, Main Street established Lewis as a major American novelist.

**Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw** (79, 96) Play (Online) Major Barbara depicted an officer of the Salvation Army, who learns from her father, a manufacturer of armaments, that money and power can be better weapons against evil than love.

**Man and Superman by George Bernard Shaw** (81) Play A comedy and a philosophy," Man and Superman is based on the Don Juan theme and, using all the elements from Mozart's Don Giovanni, Shaw reordered them so that Don Juan becomes the quarry instead of the huntsman.

**Mansfield Park by Jane Austen** (03) Novel (Online) At 10, Fanny Price, a poor relation, goes to live at Mansfield Park, the estate of her aunt's husband, Sir Thomas. Clever, studious, and a writer with an ironic imagination and fine moral compass, she becomes especially close to Edmund, Thomas's younger son. Fanny is soon possessed of beauty as well as a keen mind and comes to the attention of a neighbor, Henry Crawford. Thomas promotes this match, but to his displeasure, Fanny has a mind of her own, asking Henry to prove himself worthy. As Edmund courts Henry's sister and as light shines on the link between Thomas's fortunes and New World slavery, Fanny must assess Henry's character and assert her heart as well as her wit.

**Master Harold...and the Boys by Athol Fugard** (03) Play Athol Fugard's "Master Harold", ..and the Boys is based on the playwright's early life in South Africa. But the play itself is not a simple retelling of an incident from his past. Rather, Fugard has presented a personal experience that extends to universal humanity. If the play were simply a polemic against the policy of apartheid, it would already be outdated now that sweeping change has transformed South Africa. Instead, Fugard wrote a play about human relationships that are put to the test by societal and personal forces.

**The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy** (94, 99, 00, 02) Novel (Online) The Mayor of Casterbridge depicts an ambitious man whose dark past returns to haunt him at the height of his success. Rural superstition, professional and romantic rivalry and blackmail prod forward his slow ruin, which echoes familiar themes in Hardy's fiction: humanity's struggle against fate and uncontrollable passions.

**M. Butterfly by David Henry Wang** (95) Play

**Medea by Euripides** (82, 92, 95, 01, 03) Ancient Play (Online) The Medea tells the story of the jealousy and revenge of a woman betrayed by her husband. She has left home and father for Jason's sake, and he, after she has borne him children,
forsakes her, and betroths himself to Glaucæ, the daughter of Creon, ruler of Corinth.

**The Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers** (97) Novel Twelve-year-old Frankie Adams, longing at once for escape and belonging, takes her role as "member of the wedding" to mean that when her older brother marries she will join the happy couple in their new life together. But Frankie is unlucky in love; her mother is dead, and Frankie narrowly escapes being raped by a drunken soldier during a farewell tour of the town. Worst of all, "member of the wedding" doesn't mean what she thinks.

**The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare** (85, 91, 95, 02, 03) Play (Online) The Merchant of Venice follows the story of Antonio, a merchant who loans money to his friend Bassanio so that Bassanio may woo the heiress Portia. In order for Bassanio to gain the lady's hand, however, he must correctly choose the right gilded casket, a riddle given to Portia by her late father. He picks the lead casket, which just happens to be the right one. Meanwhile, in order to get the money Antonio asks the help of a Jew named Shylock who is out for revenge because Antonio is a Christian. He makes Antonio promise to give him a pound of his flesh if he does not pay Shylock back. Shylock's daughter Jessica elopes with Lorenzo and this also makes Shylock angry, mostly because Lorenzo is a Christian. Portia and Bassanio get married as do Portia's assistant Nerissa and Antonio's friend Gratiano. When he fails to pay back the forfeit, a trial is held to find out if Antonio deserves to have a pound of his flesh taken out of him and at this trial Portia and Nerissa dress up as a doctor and a clerk to fool their husbands and the other men by asking for their own wedding rings. They succeed in letting Antonio get away with his life and say that the life of Shylock is in the hands of the Duke, who makes the Jew give all his money to Bassanio and Antonio.

**Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka** (78, 89) Short Novel (Online) Gregor Samsa wakes up to find himself transformed into a cockroach.

**Middlemarch by George Eliot** (95, 2011) Novel (Online) Middlemarch is a novel about youthful rebellion: Dorothea, a young girl, decides to marry an aged academic, Casaubon, against the advice of her friends and family. Casaubon dies and Dorothea marries his nephew, Will. The novel is set in a small town, Middlemarch, and traces the arrival of a young doctor, Lydgate, in the town and the start of his practice. Rosamund, a woman who has spent her life in Middlemarch, marries Lydgate, and the two are taken in by the corrupt banker Bulstrode. Fred Vincey waits to inherit money from Featherstone, a rich neighbour. When this fails, he drifts towards joining the clergy and finally marries Mary Garth. The novel is concerned with the fabric of Victorian society in the 1800s and about how various human passions: heroism, egotism, love, and lust interrelate within this society.

**The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot** (0, 92) Novel (Online) the story of Maggie Tulliver, our heroine, who is the daughter of a miller in the English midlands. Like many nineteenth century literary girls, her intelligence and emotional capacity outflank those of her family and cause problems. She is devoted to her brother Tom but he is hopelessly limited in his understanding and as such Maggie turns to Philip Wakem, son of a local lawyer and unpleasantly deformed. Disaster strikes their relationship as Mr Tulliver and Wakem find themselves enemies over a legal dispute that leaves the former bankrupt. After the early death of Mr Tulliver, Maggie leaves the mill for St Ogg's where her cousin Lucy lives. Lucy's betrothed Stephen somewhat unfortunately falls for Maggie and compromises her reputation while boating on the river. Maggie refuses to marry him and her life is as good as ruined. Only a very limited group including Philip still show sympathy for her and only a dreadful flood in which Maggie tries to save Tom can lead the well-meaning but doomed girl to some kind of transcendence.

**Miss Lonelyhearts by Nathanael West** (89) Novel

**Moby Dick by Herman Melville** (76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 89, 94, 96, 01, 03) Novel (Online)
When a wandering sailor looking to be hired onto a whaling ship finds himself on the *Pequod*, little does he know the dire fate that awaits him and his crewmates. For the ship's captain, Ahab, is slowly going insane. Having lost a leg in an ill-fated harpoon attack against a fearsome white whale many years before, Ahab vows his revenge against *Moby Dick*—a vow that has become Ahab's deadly obsession.

**Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe** (76, 77, 86, 87, 95) Novel (Online) written in the form of a fictional autobiography of the girl known as Moll whose mother was convicted of petty theft just before her birth and won a reprieve to be sent to the plantations in America. Moll, however, remains in England with some gypsies who leave her in Colchester. Parish officers in the Essex town put her in the care of a woman who has a small school. She tells her nurse that she wants to be a 'gentlewoman' or in other words that she wishes to support herself. She goes to live at the home of one of the town's ladies so impressed with her attitude as companion to her daughters. Romantic confusion ensues as Moll and the lady's elder son fall in love, only for this to be ruined by his younger brother Robin's open offer of marriage. Robin and Moll marry but in five years the latter is left a poor widow with only £1,200 (her two children are taken off her hands by her parents-in-law). Further liaisons later Moll tricks a man into marrying her for money though she has none and they end up on his plantation in Virginia. Her happiness there is ruined by the realization that her mother-in-law is in fact her own mother and that she has married her brother. After Moll leaves him she begins a life of very successful thievery though her later years are spent in penitence in Virginia. This conclusion is an example of Defoe's crude morality and Puritanism.

**Monkey Bridge by Lan Cao** (00, 03) Novel Just months before the Communists roll into Saigon in 1975, Mai Nguyen, the young Vietnamese narrator of *Monkey Bridge*, is packed off to the U.S. Her sorrowing mother escapes in the final hours, leaving Mai's grandfather behind. Now it's Mai who plays the elder, navigating a rude, incomprehensible culture that makes possible a sudden twist in life. "Not only could we become anything we wanted to be in America, we could change what we had once been in Vietnam," she realizes. Though Mai watches her mother's ebullient friend shave years off her age and a one-time bar girl lay claim to a virtuous past as a Confucian teacher, she never wonders how much of their lives her mother has reinvented.

**Mother Courage and Her Children by Bertold Brecht** (85, 87) Play

**Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf** (94, 97) Novel As Clarissa Dalloway walks through London on a fine June morning, a sky-writing plane captures her attention. Crowds stare upwards to decipher the message while the plane turns and loops, leaving off one letter, picking up another. Like the airplane’s swooping path, Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* follows Clarissa and those whose lives brush hers—from Peter Walsh, whom she spurned years ago, to her daughter Elizabeth, the girl’s angry teacher, Doris Kilman, and war-shocked Septimus Warren Smith, who is sinking into madness.

**Mrs. Warren’s Profession by George Bernard Shaw** (87, 90, 95, 02) Play In his play, Shaw depicts the struggle of a young, well-educated woman—Vivie—whose ideals clash with those of her worldly mother—Mrs. Warren. Conflict arises when Mrs. Warren tries to control Vivie’s life. Ultimately, Vivie must choose to please her mother and sacrifice her own ideals or forsake her mother and achieve an identity separate from the expectations placed on her by family and society.

**Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare** (97) Play (Online)

**Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot** (76, 80, 85, 95) Play A psychological insight into the mind of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1170, before his death. It poses, through Becket, questions on what true martyrdom is, whether Becket indeed deserved the recognition he got, what comprises a self-effacing attitude and the influence of God in our lives.
“My Last Duchess” by Robert Browning
(85) Poem (Online)

My Antonia by Willa Cather
(03) Novel
(Online) My Ántonia is at once the intimate portrait of an American heroine, an elegy for a vanished frontier, and the story of an unconsummated love affair. Jim Burden, the narrator, meets Antonia Shimerda as a child on the Nebraska prairie. He is an orphan and a Protestant, she the daughter of ill-adapted Bohemian immigrants; her father will kill himself when he is broken by the harshness and solitude of their new home. Jim and Antonia grow up together, and he harbors vague and contradictory romantic yearnings toward her. But they are separated in their youth and spend most of their lives apart. While Jim pursues his education and becomes a lawyer for the railroad, Ántonia goes into domestic service, survives a near-rape, is seduced and abandoned by a heartless lover, and bears a baby out of wedlock. Much of her story unfolds secondhand, as Jim gathers it from other sources. They are reunited only briefly at the novel’s end, and by then both of them are married, Jim unhappily so.

My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok
(03) Novel Asher Lev is a Ladover Hasid who keeps kosher, prays three times a day and believes in the Ribbono Shel Olom, the Master of the Universe. Asher Lev is an artist who is compulsively driven to render the world he sees and feels even when it leads him to blasphemy. In this stirring and often visionary novel, Chaim Potok traces Asher’s passage between these two identities, the one consecrated to God, the other subject only to the imagination.

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**Native Son** by Richard Wright
(79, 82, 85, 87, 95, 01) Novel Bigger Thomas is doomed, trapped in a downward spiral that will lead to arrest, prison, or death, driven by despair, frustration, poverty, and incomprehension. As a young black man in the Chicago of the ‘30s, he has no way out of the walls of poverty and racism that surround him, and after he murders a young white woman in a moment of panic, these walls begin to close in. There is no help for him—not from his hapless family; not from liberal do-gooders or from his well-meaning yet naive friend Jan; certainly not from the police, prosecutors, or judges. Bigger is debased, aggressive, dangerous, and a violent criminal. As such, he has no claim upon our compassion or sympathy.

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

**1984** by George Orwell
(87, 94) Novel In a grim city and a terrifying country, where Big Brother is always Watching You and the Thought Police can practically read your mind, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. He knows the Party’s official image of the world is a fluid fiction. He knows the Party controls the people by feeding them lies and narrowing their imaginations through a process of bewilderment and brutalization that alienates each individual from his fellows and deprives him of every liberating human pursuit from reasoned inquiry to sexual passion. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

No Exit by John Paul Sartre
(86) Play

No-No Boy by John Okada
Novel John Okada explores race and identity in postwar North America with an unflinching, sensitive eye. His protagonist is a Japanese-American who has spent the duration of the war in prison for refusing military service, on the advice of his mother, who believed the Japanese emperor would call them all home some day. He struggles with the consequences of that decision for the remainder of the novel. This isn't simply a Japanese-American internment story, but a
rich analysis of what it means to be non-white in the United States, and all the pain and joy that accompanies such an identity.

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen (2007)

Notes from the Underground by Fyodor Dostoevsky (89) (Online)

Obasan by Joy Kogawa (94, 95) Novel When Naomi was a young child living in Vancouver, British Columbia, her mother left to visit relatives in Japan. Soon after, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Naomi's mother was not allowed to return and Naomi's family was "relocated" by the Canadian government. When Obasan begins, Naomi is thirty-five, a woman determined to ignore her past. But the death of the man who helped raise her and her aunt's refusal to forgive the Canadian government force Naomi to remember. Naomi's initial memories are of a big house with a backyard and a father who loved music, of handcrafted boats and communal baths with her great-aunt. Then the memories shift and she remembers families divided, chicken coops assigned as "houses," parents dying away from their children, and a government that took away rights based on ethnic heritage, not actions. Obasan uses a combination of personal narrative, lyrical outpourings, official letters, and dreams to protest the treatment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II. Differing in style and emotional intensity, the voices clash and mesh, building upon each other until they reach the ending, which both stuns and forces us to reconsider all that has gone before

The Odyssey by Homer (86)

Oedipus Rex by Sophocles (77, 85, 88, 00, 03) Ancient Play (Online)

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (01)

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (89) Novel One Hundred Years of Solitude tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of a mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, alive with unforgettable men and women, and with a truth and understanding that strike the soul.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey (01) Novel The story about life on a mental ward in the 1950s.

The Optimist's Daughter by D. H. Lawrence (94) Novel This is the story of Laurel McKelva Hand, a young woman who left her home in the South a number of years ago, who now travels to New Orleans to take care of her dying father. After his death, Laurel returns to the small Mississippi town where she was raised and, while living in her old family home, comes to terms with her past and her relationship with her family

The Orestia by Aeschylus (90) Ancient Play (Online)

Othello by William Shakespeare (79, 85, 88, 92, 95, 03) Play (Online)

Our Mutual Friends by Charles Dickens (90) Novel (Online) The basic plot is vintage Dickens: an inheritance up for grabs, a murder, a rocky romance or two, plenty of skullduggery, and a host of unforgettable secondary characters. But in this final outing the author's heroes are more flawed, his villains more sympathetic, and the story as a whole more harrowing and less sentimental. The mood is set in the opening scene in which a river man, Gaffer Hexam, and his daughter Lizzie troll the Thames searching for drowned men whose pockets Gaffer will rifle before turning the body over to the authorities. On this particular night Gaffer finds a corpse that is later identified as that of John Harmon, who was returning from abroad to claim a large fortune when he was apparently murdered and thrown into the river.

Our Town by Thorton Wilder (86, 97) Play (Online) Pulitzer Prize-winning drama in three acts by Thorton Wilder, produced and published in 1938, considered a classic portrayal of small-town American life. Set in Grover's Corners, N.H., the play features a narrator, the Stage Manager, who sits at the side of the unadorned stage and explains the action. Through flashbacks, dialogue, and direct monologues the other characters
reveal themselves to the audience. The main characters are George Gibbs, a doctor's son, and Emily Webb, daughter of a newspaper editor. The play concerns their courtship and marriage and Emily's death in childbirth, after which she and other inhabitants of the graveyard describe their peace. Considered enormously innovative for its lack of props and scenery and revered for its sentimental but at bottom realistic depictions of middle-class America, Our Town soon became a staple of American theater.

**P**

**Pale Fire by Vladimir Nabakov** (01) Novel

John Shade is a homebody poet in New Wye, U.S.A. He writes a 999-line poem about his life, and what may lie beyond death. This novel (and seldom has the word seemed so woefully inadequate) consists of both that poem and an extensive commentary on it by the poet's crazy neighbor, Charles Kinbote.

According to this deranged annotator, he had urged Shade to write about his own homeland—the northern kingdom of Zembla. It soon becomes clear that this fabulous locale may well be a figment of Kinbote's colorfully cracked, prismatic imagination. Meanwhile, he manages to twist the poem into an account of Zembla's King Charles—whom he believes himself to be—and the monarch's eventual assassination by the revolutionary Jakob Gradus.

In the course of this dizzying narrative, shots are indeed fired. But it's Shade who takes the hit, enabling Kinbote to steal the dead poet's manuscript and set about annotating it. Is that perfectly clear? By now it should be obvious that *Pale Fire* is not only a whodunit but a who-wrote-it. There isn't, of course, a single solution. But Nabokov's best biographer, Brian Boyd, has come up with an ingenious suggestion: he argues that Shade is actually guiding Kinbote's mad hand from beyond the grave, nudging him into completing what he'd intended to be a 1,000-line poem. Read this magical, melancholic mystery and see if you agree.

**Pamela by Samuel Richardson** (86) Novel

Pamela, a beautiful chaste virgin, is given a servant's position on the estate of Lord B. Her beauty attracts the attentions of the rakish nobleman and he attempts to seduce her, but she maintains her virtue. The inflamed Lord tries other stratagems: he pretends to marry her; he even tries to rape her. None of these are successful.

The novel takes the form of letters from Pamela to her mother describing the events that take place.

**A Passage to India by E. M. Forster** (77, 78, 88, 91, 92) Novel

What really happened in the Marabar caves? This is the mystery at the heart of E.M. Forster's 1924 novel, *A Passage to India*, the puzzle that sets in motion events highlighting an even larger question: Can an Englishman and an Indian be friends?

**Paradise Lost** by John Milton (85, 86) Poem

(Online) Epic poem about the fall of man.

**Pere Goriot by Honore de Balzac** (02) Novel

Nobody writes about money like Balzac, and his classic chronicle of a young man from the provinces clawing his way to success in 19th century Paris, even as an older man is victimized by the same milieu, shrewdly captures the financial dimension of so much that goes on between people. The boarding house in which the two protagonists live is a microcosm of their world, and Goriot's treatment by his daughters would make Lear blanch.

**Persuasion by Jane Austen** (90) Novel

Anne Elliot, heroine of Austen's last novel, did something we can all relate to: Long ago, she let the love of her life get away. In this case, she had allowed herself to be persuaded by a trusted family friend that the young man she loved wasn't an adequate match, social stationwise, and that Anne could do better. The novel opens some seven years after Anne sent her beau packing, and she's still alone. But then the guy she never stopped loving comes back from the sea. As always, Austen's storytelling is so confident, you can't help but allow yourself to be taken on the enjoyable journey.
**Phaedra by Jean Racine** (92, 03) Play (Online) Set in Troezen, the play is the story of one Phaedra, daughter of King Minos of Crete and wife of King Theseus of Athens, who fell despite herself into love with her stepson, Hippolytus. The action that began with her confession would only end later with the deaths of three, herself included, and all within a single day!

**The Piano Lesson by August Wilson** Play It is set in Pittsburgh in 1936 and focuses upon the relationship between the Charles siblings, Berniece and Boy Willie, who clash over whether or not their family’s piano should be sold. In the mid-nineteenth century, when the Charles family were slaves, two members of the family were sold by their owners, the Sutters, for a piano. Subsequently, a master-carpenter in the Charles family was ordered by the Sutters to carve the faces of the sold slaves into the piano. He did that and more: he carved the family’s entire history into the piano. The instrument was later stolen by Berniece and Boy Willie’s father, who was then killed by the Sutters in retribution.

**The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde** (02) Novel (Online) The Picture of Dorian Gray was arch-aesthete Oscar Wilde’s only novel, although he wrote a number of poems and children’s stories before it was published in 1890 (in *Lippincott’s Magazine*) and became a very successful playwright in the 1890s themselves. Like much of his work and life, the Gothic melodrama *Dorian Gray* was controversial. In his preface to the book he famously wrote that, “There is no such thing as a moral or immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all”. The novel is a brilliant portrait of vanity and depravity tinged with sadness. The picture of the title is a splendid work painted by Basil Hallward of the orphaned boy Dorian Gray who is the heir to a great fortune. Lord Henry and Hallward discuss the boy and the remarkable painting. Dorian enters and declares that he would give his soul if he were always to be young and the painting instead would grow old. As the story pans out, Dorian leaves his fiancée - the actress Sibyl Vane - because through a single bad performance he claims that she has ‘killed’ his love. She kills herself with poison and Dorian is unaffected. So begins the tale of the boy’s descent into low society in London while still giving dinners and musicals for high society. He is inspired by two things: the book Lord Henry sends him that seems to predict his own life in dissecting every virtue and every sin from the past; and secondly the picture of himself which grows steadily older and more vicious looking compared to his own mirror image which remains young. Fanatical about the portrait, he is driven to murder and deception. As others are drawn into this web of evil Dorian himself longs to return to innocence but his method is horrific and tragic.

**The Plague by Albert Camus** (02) Novel Set in Algeria, in northern Africa, *The Plague* is a powerful study of human life and its meaning in the face of a deadly virus that sweeps dispassionately through the city, taking a vast percentage of the population with it.

**Pnin by Vladimir Nabokov** (97) Novel Pnin is a professor of Russian at an American college who takes the wrong train to deliver a lecture in a language he cannot master. Pnin is a tireless lover who writes to his treacherous Liza: “A genius needs to keep so much in store, and thus cannot offer you the whole of himself as I do.” Pnin is the focal point of subtle academic conspiracies he cannot begin to comprehend, yet he stages a faculty party to end all faculty parties forever.

**Pocho by Jose Antonio Villareal** (02) Novel This is a wonderful story of an immigrant family from Mexico. The father has the hopes of one day returning to the Mexico of his past, but with each passing day in his new land his dream of returning fades away. As the family grows up and changes the realities of Life show that you can never return to your past or in other words “You can never go Home.”
**Portrait of a Lady** by Henry James (88, 92, 96, 03) Novel (Online) When Isabel Archer, a beautiful, spirited American, is brought to Europe by her wealthy Aunt Touchett, it is expected that she will soon marry. But Isabel, resolved to determine her own fate, does not hesitate to turn down two eligible suitors. She then finds herself irresistibly drawn to Gilbert Osmond, who, beneath his veneer of charm and cultivation, is cruelty itself. A story of intense poignancy, Isabel's tale of love and betrayal still resonates with modern audiences.

**Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man** by James Joyce (76, 77, 80, 86, 88, 96, 99) Novel (Online) The central character is Stephen Dedalus (who also appears in *Ulysses*) and he narrates his own life in words and styles appropriate to each phase: as such the earliest stages are expresses in simplistic and fragmentary diction, while his university life is given complex and articulate form. This is its chief innovation, but otherwise it is notable for its wonderful evocation of a child blessed and cursed with intellect and a middle-class upbringing. We follow Joyce/Dedalus through his crisis of faith inspired by Father Arnall's 'hellfire' sermon and various childhood difficulties such as bullying and into sexual and emotional development. In the background to this and central to the narrator's concerns are the vulgar narrow-mindedness of both the Irish Catholic Church and nationalism, which was at its peak at the end of the nineteenth century when this novel is set.

**The Power and the Glory** by Graham Greene (95) Novel Graham Greene's novel follows a priest in his flight from authorities who are trying to eradicate the Catholic church in a Mexican state.

**Praisesong for the Widow** by Paule Marshall (96) Novel A middle class African-American widow, Avey Marshall, has set off on a cruise with two of her friends from work on the "Bianca Pride," and becomes ill shortly after they have set sail. Avey disembarks in Grenada after experiencing disequilibrium, nausea, disturbing nightmares, and a feeling of being "clogged and swollen." This begins a journey of reclamation and healing of a past that has been largely forgotten or erased in her efforts to escape the poverty of her younger years and obtain the American dream of financial security and a white-defined respectability.

**Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen (83, 88, 92, 97) Novel Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy meet in the Assembly Rooms at Meryton and take a profound dislike to one another. Each blinded by pride and prejudice they both have to learn the difference between appearance and reality. Elizabeth comes to realize that her initial reactions may have cost her the perfect husband.

**The Prime of Miss Jane Brodie** by Muriel Spark (90) Novel At the staid Marcia Blaine School for Girls, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Miss Jean Brodie--teacher extraordinaire--is unmistakably, and outspokenly, in her prime. She is passionate in the application of her unorthodox teaching methods, in her attraction to the married art master, Teddy Lloyd, in her affair with the bachelor music master, Gordon Lowther, and--most importantly--in her dedication to her girls. And her girls--the students she selects to be her creme de la creme--are devoted to Miss Brodie. Each member of the "Brodie set"--Eunice, Jenny, Mary, Monica, Rose, and Sandy--is "famous for something", and Miss Brodie strives to bring out the best in each, and to instill in each an independence, passion, and ambition surpassing her own. "Safety does not come first," Miss Brodie advises her girls. "Goodness, Truth and Beauty come first. Follow me." And they do. But one of her girls will betray her.

**Pygmalion** by George Bernard Shaw (03) Play (Online) Rags to riches tale about a poor young woman and a bet between two friends.

**Saint Joan** by George Bernard Shaw (95) Play

**The Scarlet Letter** by Nathaniel Hawthorne (77, 78, 83, 88, 91, 99, 02) Novel (Online) A fallen woman, a spurned husband and a priest with a secret.

**The Seraph on the Sawanee** by Zora Neale Hurston
**Sent for You Yesterday** by John Edgar Wideman (03) Novel Reimagining the black neighborhood of his youth Homewood, Pittsburgh - Wideman creates a dazzling and evocative milieu. From the wild and uninhibited 1920s to the narcotized 1970s, "he establishes a mythological and symbolic link between character and landscape, language and plot, that in the hands of a less visionary writer might be little more than stale sociology."

**A Separate Peace** by John Knowles (82) Novel Sharing a room at Devon, an exclusive New England prep school, in the summer prior to World War II, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession, and the betrayal of trust. Narrator Scott Snively’s ability to switch seamlessly from the perspective of a teenager tormented by feelings he doesn’t want to understand to the reflective musing of a man looking back at the formative experience of his youth provide both the story and the setting with an immediacy that quickly engages listeners.

**The Shipping News** by E. Annie Proulx (97) Novel In this touching and atmospheric novel set among the fishermen of Newfoundland, Proulx tells the story of Quoyle. From all outward appearances, Quoyle has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big schlump of a loser. He’s not attractive, he’s not brilliant or witty or talented, and he’s not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. But Proulx creates a simple and compelling tale of Quoyle’s psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life.

**Sister Carrie** by Theodore Dreiser (87, 02) Novel (Online) The story of Carrie Meeber, an 18-year-old country girl who moves to Chicago and becomes a kept woman.

**Slaughterhouse Five** by Kurt Vonnegut (91) Novel Kurt Vonnegut’s absurdist classic Slaughterhouse-Five introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut’s) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

**Snow Falling on Cedars** by David Guterson (00) Novel Ishmael Chambers, the one-man staff of the newspaper on San Piedro Island in Puget Sound, is covering the 1954 trial of a high school classmate accused of killing another classmate over a land dispute.

**Song of Solomon** by Toni Morrison (81, 88, 96, 00) Novel Song of Solomon begins with one of the most arresting scenes in our century’s literature: a dreamlike tableau depicting a man poised on a roof, about to fly into the air, while cloth rose petals swirl above the snow-covered ground and, in the astonished crowd below, one woman sings as another enters premature labor. The child born of that labor, Macon (Milkman) Dead, will eventually come to discover, through his complicated progress to maturity, the meaning of the drama that marked his birth.

**Sons and Lovers** by D. H. Lawrence (77, 90) Novel (Online) Sons and Lovers was the first modern portrayal of a phenomenon that later, thanks to Freud, became easily recognizable as the Oedipus complex. Never was a son more indentured to his mother’s love and full of hatred for his father than Paul Morel, D. H. Lawrence’s young protagonist. Never, that is, except perhaps Lawrence himself. In his 1913 novel he grappled with the discordant loves that haunted him all his life— for his spiritual...
childhood sweetheart, here called Miriam, and for his mother, whom he transformed into Mrs. Morel. It is, by Lawrence’s own account, a book aimed at depicting this woman’s grasp: “as her sons grow up she selects them as lovers—first the eldest, then the second. These sons are urged into life by their reciprocal love of their mother—urged on and on. But when they come to manhood, they can’t love, because their mother is the strongest power in their lives.”

**The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner** (77, 86, 97, 01) Novel (Online)
The ostensible subject of The Sound and the Fury is the dissolution of the Compsons, one of those august old Mississippi families that fell on hard times and wild eccentricity after the Civil War. But in fact what William Faulkner is really after in his legendary novel is the kaleidoscope of consciousness—the overwrought mind caught in the act of thought. His rich, dark, scandal-ridden story of squandered fortune, incest (in thought if not in deed), madness, congenital brain damage, theft, illegitimacy, and stoic endurance is told in the interior voices of three Compson brothers: first Benjy, the "idiot" man-child who blurs together three decades of inchoate sensations as he stalks the fringes of the family's former pasture; next Quentin, torturing himself brilliantly, obsessively over Caddy's lost virginity and his own failure to recover the family's honor as he wanders around the seedy fringes of Boston; and finally Jason, heartless, shrewd, sneaking, nursing a perpetual sense of injury and outrage against his outrageous family.

**The Stone Angel by Margaret Laurence** (96) Novel The Stone Angel is a compelling journey seen through the eyes of a woman nearing the end of her life. At ninety, Hagar Shipley speaks movingly of the perils of growing old and reflects with bitterness, humor, and a painful awareness of her own frailties on the life she has led. From her childhood as the daughter of a respected merchant, to her rebellious marriage, Hagar has fought a long and sometimes misguided battle for independence and respect. In the course of examining and trying to understand the shape her life has taken, her divided feelings about her husband, her passionate attachment to one son and her neglect of another, she is sometimes regretful, but rarely penitent. Asking forgiveness from neither God nor those around her, she must still wrestle with her own nature: “Pride was my wilderness, and the demon that led me there was fear.” She has been afraid of being unrespectable, afraid of needing too much, afraid of giving too much, and her pride is both disturbing and inspiring.

**The Stranger by Albert Camus** (79, 82, 86) Novel A young Algerian, Meursault, afflicted with a sort of aimless inertia, becomes embroiled in the petty intrigues of a local pimp and, somewhat inexplicably, ends up killing a man. Once he's imprisoned and eventually brought to trial, his crime, it becomes apparent, is not so much the arguably defensible murder he has committed as it is his deficient character. The trial's proceedings are absurd, a parsing of incidental trivialities—that Meursault, for instance, seemed unmoved by his own mother's death and then attended a comic movie the evening after her funeral are two ostensibly damning facts—so that the eventual sentence the jury issues is both ridiculous and inevitable.

**The Street by Ann Petry** (2010) A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams (91, 92, 01) Play This electrifying play tells the feverish story of the pathetic mental and emotional demise of a determined, yet fragile, repressed and delicate Southern lady (Blanche) born to a once-wealthy family of Mississippi planters. Her impoverished, tragic downfall in the squalid, cramped and tawdry French Quarter one-bedroom apartment of her married sister (Stella) and animalistic brother-in-law (Stanley) is at the hands of savage, brutal forces in modern society. In her search for refuge, she finds that her sister lives (approvingly) with drunkenness, violence, lust, and ignorance.

**Sula by Toni Morrison** (92, 97, 02) Novel In Sula, Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for literature, tells the story of two women—friends since childhood, separated in young adulthood, and reunited as grown women. Nel Wright grows up to
become a wife and mother, happy to remain in her hometown of Medallion, Ohio. Sula Peace leaves Medallion to experience college, men, and life in the big city, an exceptional choice for a black woman to make in the late 1920s.

As girls, Nel and Sula are the best of friends, only children who find in each other a kindred spirit to share in each girl's loneliness and imagination. When they meet again as adults, it's clear that Nel has chosen a life of acceptance and accommodation, while Sula must fight to defend her seemingly unconventional choices and beliefs. But regardless of the physical and emotional distance that threatens this extraordinary friendship, the bond between the women remains unbreakable: "Her old friend had come home.... Sula, whose past she had lived through and with whom the present was a constant sharing of perceptions. Talking to Sula had always been a conversation with herself."

**The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway** (85, 91, 95, 96) Novel
Jake Barnes, Hemingway's narrator with a mysterious war wound that has left him sexually incapable, is the heart and soul of the book. Brett, the beautiful, doomed English woman he adores, provides the glamour of natural chic and sexual unattainability. Alcohol and post-World War I anomie fuel the plot: weary of drinking and dancing in Paris cafés, the expatriate gang decamps for the Spanish town of Pamplona for the "wonderful nightmare" of a week-long fiesta. Brett, with fiancé and ex-lover Cohn in tow, breaks hearts all around until she falls, briefly, for the handsome teenage bullfighter Pedro Romero. "My God! he's a lovely boy," she tells Jake. "And how I would love to see him get into those clothes. He must use a shoe-horn." Whereupon the party disbands.

**A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens** (82, 91) Novel
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) is one of Dickens' two historical novels, the other being *Barnaby Rudge*, the two cities in question are Paris and London at the time of the French Revolution. Perhaps unsurprisingly Dickens seems to disdain the aristocracy. The heroic nobleman, Charles Darnay, renounces his status in opposition to his uncle, the Marquis de St Evremonde, and the evils of oppression he represents. Meanwhile, Dr Manette the physician has become aware of the Marquis' ill-practice through a young peasant and his sister who have been hideously treated. After Darnay leaves France, he falls in love with Manette's daughter, Lucie, and they are married. The story continues after Darnay's happiness with Lucie as he returns to France during the Terror to save a servant. Darnay is arrested and condemned to death. The final section of the novel is concerned with the question of whether he will survive or be punished for his noble act of rescue, and whether or not the Englishman Carton who resembles Darnay will be able to save his life. It is a story of great sacrifices being made for the sake of principle. The novel is notable for its vivid representation of France during this troubled time and was modelled on Carlyle's *The French Revolution*.

**Tartuffe by Moliere** (87) Novel (Online)

**The Tempest by William Shakespeare**
Play

**Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy** (82, 91, 03) Novel
*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* portrays one of the most striking and tragic heroines of classic literature. The compelling story is, first, a romantic tale of love gone astray. Second, it is an indictment of the British class system revered by some Victorians. And finally, it is an inquiry into what deities or fates control the destinies of humans.

**Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zorah Neale Hurston (88, 90, 91, 96) Novel

**Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe
(91, 97, 03) Novel
Achebe sketches a world in which violence, war, and suffering exist, but are balanced by a strong sense of tradition, ritual, and social coherence. His Ibo protagonist, Okonkwo, is a self-made...
man. The son of a charming ne'er-do-well, he has worked all his life to overcome his father's weakness and has arrived, finally, at great prosperity and even greater reputation among his fellows in the village of Umuofia. Okonkwo is a champion wrestler, a prosperous farmer, husband to three wives and father to several children. He is also a man who exhibits flaws well-known in Greek tragedy:

**Tom Jones by Henry Fielding** (90, 00) Novel (Online) The story tells of a gentleman named Allworthy who has a large fortune and is a healthy and decent man. One night he steps into bed and finds to his surprise an infant wrapped in linen between his sheets and with the help of his beloved sister Bridget sorts out the boy's future. A maidservant, Jenny Jones, admits that it is her child and the boy is given the name Tom Jones. Bridget marries Captain Brifil and they agree at Allworthy's request to bring up the child. After troubled years, Tom grows to a young man but seems doomed to be hanged since he has already been convicted of robbing an orchard, stealing a duck and picking Master Blifil's pocket by the age of fourteen. His weaknesses are his spirit of animal instinct and his lusty nature, though he is also cursed with ill luck. Tom falls in love with the daughter of Western, an ignorant and unpleasant individual. The boy's life is made more difficult still by his enemies Thwackum and Square, and he ends up a wanderer. The novel centres upon these wandering times, and follows him as he ends up seduced by his own mother although it turns out that his true mother was another woman entirely.

**To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf** (77, 86, 88) Novel Woolf's beautiful, if somber, 1927 novel falls into three parts. First is a scene of a large, complex family on summer holiday before the Great War, their guests, their servants, their belongings, their style of life, and a postponed day trip to the distant lighthouse, longed for by the youngest child, James. The second section deals with what happened next, to them and to England, and the last reassembles some of the remaining characters at the scene of the first, for the lighthouse trip, so changed from the one once anticipated

**The Trial by Franz Kafka** (88, 89, 00) Novel A terrifying psychological trip into the life of one Joseph K., an ordinary man who wakes up one day to find himself accused of a crime he did not commit, a crime whose nature is never revealed to him. Once arrested, he is released, but must report to court on a regular basis—an event that proves maddening, as nothing is ever resolved. As he grows more uncertain of his fate, his personal life—including work at a bank and his relations with his landlady and a young woman who lives next door—becomes increasingly unpredictable. As K. tries to gain control, he succeeds only in accelerating his own excruciating downward spiral

**Trifles by Susan Glaspell** (00) Play (Online)

**Tristram Shandy by Laurence Sterne** (86)

**The Turn of the Screw by Henry James** (92, 94, 00, 02) Novel (Online) The story starts conventionally enough with friends sharing ghost stories 'round the fire on Christmas Eve. One of the guests tells about a governess at a country house plagued by supernatural visitors. But in the hands of Henry James, the master of nuance, this little tale of terror is an exquisite gem of sexual and psychological ambiguity. Only the young governess can see the ghosts; only she suspects that the previous governess and her lover are controlling the two orphaned children (a girl and a boy) for some evil purpose. The household staff don't know what she's talking about, the children are evasive when questioned, and the master of the house (the children's uncle) is absent. Why does the young girl claim not to see a perfectly visible woman standing on the far side of the lake? Are the children being deceptive, or is the governess being paranoid? By leaving the questions unanswered, The Turn of Screw generates spine-tingling anxiety in its mesmerized readers.

**Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare** (85, 94, 96) Play (Online) When twins Sebastian and Viola are shipwrecked and separated off the coast of Illyria, each believes the other is dead. Viola disguises herself as a boy, becomes a page of Duke
Orsinio, and falls in love with him. The Duke is hopelessly in love with Olivia, but she is in the process of mourning her brother’s death and becomes infatuated with Viola as she/he delivers messages for the Duke. When Sebastian shows up, Olivia confuses him with the Duke’s page (Olivia) and marries the astonished young man. All is cleared up eventually when Viola and Sebastian meet and recognize each other. In the midst of all of this romantic confusion, servants and family members provide comic relief with their pompous, pretentious, and sometimes inebriated behavior.

**Typical American** by Gish Jen (02, 03) Novel
As foreign students in New York, Ralph Chang, "Older Sister" Teresa, and Ralph’s future wife Helen become trapped in the United States when the Communists assume control of China in 1948. Banding together, the three of them innocently plan to achieve the American dream, while retaining their Chinese values

**Uncle Tom’s Cabin** Harriet Beecher Stowe (87) Novel

**Victory** by Joseph Conrad Novel (Online)

**Volpone** by Ben Johnson (83)

**Waiting for Godot** by Samuel Beckett (77, 85, 86, 89, 94, 01) Play (online)

**The Warden** by Anthony Trollope (96) Novel (Online)

**Washington Square** by Henry James (90) Novel (Online)

**The Wasteland** by T. S. Eliot (81) Poem

**Watch on the Rhine** by Lillian Hellman

**Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** by Edward Albee (88, 94, 00) Play

**Wide Sargasso Sea** by Jean Rhys (89, 92) *Wide Sargasso Sea* is the story of Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress who grew up in the West Indies on a decaying plantation. When she comes of age she is married off to an Englishman, and he takes her away from the only place she has known—a house with a garden where "the paths were overgrown and a smell of dead flowers mixed with the fresh living smell. Underneath the tree ferns, tall as forest tree ferns, the light was green. Orchids flourished out of reach or for some reason not to be touched."

The novel is Rhys’s answer to *Jane Eyre*. Charlotte Brontë’s book had long haunted her, mostly for the story it did not tell—that of the madwoman in the attic, Rochester’s terrible secret. Antoinette is Rhys’s imagining of that locked-up woman, who in the end burns up the house and herself. *Wide Sargasso Sea* follows her voyage into the dark, both from her point of view and Rochester’s. It is a voyage charged with soul-destroying lust. "I watched her die many times," observes the new husband. "In my way, not in hers. In sunlight, in shadow, by moonlight, by candlelight. In the long afternoons when the house was empty."

**The Wild Duck** by Henrik Ibsen (78) Play (Online) In the play, an idealistic outsider’s gratuitous truth-telling destroys a family. Gregers Werle, who has a compulsion to tell the truth at all costs, reveals to the Ekdal family certain unasked-for information about each family member’s past. The knowledge destroys their illusions and their family life. As the final destructive act Hedvig, the Ekdals’ adolescent daughter, kills herself after Werle informs the family that she may be the illegitimate daughter of a man other than her beloved father.

**Winter in the Blood** by James Welch (95) Novel

**Wise Blood** by Flannery O’Connor Novel It is the story of Hazel Motes, a 22-year-old man who returns home to Tennessee after four years’ service in the army. Hazel had grown up in the town of Eastrod, but his parents and family are all dead. Hazel’s grandfather had been a preacher. Before Hazel had joined the army, he had intended to become a preacher.
Now, he is trying to avoid Jesus, whom he sees as a ragged figure moving from tree to tree in the back of his mind. Hazel travels to the town of Taulkinham. He meets an 18-year-old boy named Enoch Emery who tries to become his friend, but Hazel rejects him. Hazel is attracted to a blind preacher named Asa Hawks, and to the preacher’s daughter, Sabbath Lily Hawks. Hawks tells him that he cannot run away from Jesus, but Hazel tells the preacher that Jesus does not exist.

**Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston (91)** Memoir

**Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (77, 78, 79, 83, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 99, 01)** Novel (Online) Emily’s sister Charlotte spoke of the “horror of great darkness” surrounding the novel in her memoirs and it only received recognition after Emily’s death from consumption in 1848. Much of the first half of the novel concerns the passionate and illicit relationship between Catherine Earnshaw and Mr. Heathcliff as narrated by a number of individuals: primarily by Mr. Lockwood and Nelly Dean, the housekeeper of Thrushcross Grange. There is intrigue concerning Heathcliff who has taken over the Grange and keeps a clumsy boy called Hareton Earnshaw. We learn of how his morose and stern attitude began and the cruel twists of fate which have torn two families apart. The death of Catherine and the true intentions of the novel’s various mysterious characters have been the source of much speculation and even now *Wuthering Heights* remains genuinely harrowing and cathartic.

**Z**

*The Zoo Story by Edward Albee (82, 01)* Play (Online)

*Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez (95)* Play *Zoot Suit* brings to life a racially-charged trial of the 1940s, in which a group of *pachucos*, Mexican-American gang members, are charged and sentenced with the murder of another Mexican American

**MOST FREQUENTLY CITED TITLES:**

17 – *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
14 – *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
11 – *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
11 – *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
10 – *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
9 – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
9 – *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
9 – *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
8 – *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
7 – *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville
7 – *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
7 – *Light in August* by William Faulkner
7 – *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce
7 – *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
7 – *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
6 – *Candide* by Voltaire
6 – *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko
6 – *Native Son* by Richard Wright
6 – *Othello* by William Shakespeare
6 – *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett
5 – *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
5 – *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
5 – *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen
5 – *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams
5 – *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy
5 – *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe
5 – *A Passage to India* by E. M. Forster
5 – *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shakespeare’s Plays – Total = 50</th>
<th>Classic Greek Literature = 21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 – King Lear</td>
<td>6 – Antigone by Sophocles</td>
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<td>6 – Othello</td>
<td>5 – Medea by Euripides</td>
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<td>5 – Merchant of Venice</td>
<td>5 – Oedipus Rex by Sophocles</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 – Hamlet</td>
<td>1 – The Eumenides by Aeschylus</td>
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<td>3 – Macbeth</td>
<td>1 – The Iliad by Homer</td>
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<td>3 – Romeo and Juliet</td>
<td>1 – Lysistrata by Aristophanes</td>
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<td>3 – The Tempest</td>
<td>1 – The Odyssey by Homer</td>
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<td>3 – Twelfth Night</td>
<td>1 – The Orestia by Aeschylus</td>
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<td>3 – Winter’s Tale</td>
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<td>2 – Anthony and Cleopatra</td>
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<td>2 – Henry IV, Parts I and II</td>
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<td>2 – Julius Caesar</td>
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<td>1 – As You Like It</td>
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<td>1 – Henry V</td>
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<td>1 – Much Ado About Nothing</td>
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<td>1 – Richard III</td>
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