

Classic American Literature

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Tom Sawyer (2)
ADVENTURE Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom.

Atlas Shrugged. Ayn Rand (1) SCI-FI
The enormous story of a man who said that he would stop the motion of the world--and did.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Alex Haley & Malcolm X (1) NARRATIVE Influential autobiography of one of the most notable heroes of the Civil Rights era.

Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman. Earnest Gaines (1)
HISTORICAL In her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from slavery to the civil rights movement.

The Bell Jar. Sylvia Plath (1) 813.5 PLA
This autobiographical novel describes an ambitious and brilliant young woman's search for values and her eventual breakdown.

Billy Bud. Herman Melville (2) HISTORICAL
A handsome young sailor is unjustly accused of plotting mutiny in this timeless tale of the sea.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. Dee Brown (1)
NARRATIVE This history of the West illustrates how Native Americans lost their land and lives to the expanding white society.

Catch-22. Joseph Heller (2) HS GENERAL
A hilarious satire about the impossibilities of World War II, this provides comedy along with background for American History II.

The Color Purple. Alice Walker (2) HS GENERAL
A young woman sees herself as property until another woman teaches her to value herself.

The Crucible. Arthur Miller (2) 812.5 MIL
A drama based on the witch trials in Salem Village.

A Death in the Family. James Agee (2)
The fragility of a strong family is exposed after a man is killed in a car accident in 1915 Knoxville, TN.

Ethan Frome. Edith Wharton (1) ROMANCE
Ethan Frome, a poor farmer, has a hard life tending to his land, trying to make a meager living, and also taking

care of his ungrateful, demanding, sickly wife, Zeena. When her cousin, Mattie, comes to help her, Ethan's life changes completely.

Fahrenheit 451. Ray Bradbury (2) SCI-FI
A book burner official in a future fascist state finds out books are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed.

The Good Earth. Pearl Buck. (3) GENERAL
The story of a Chinese peasant and his passionate, dogged accumulation of land during famine, drought, and revolution.

Go Tell It On the Mountain. James Baldwin (1)
NARRATIVE Describes a day in the life of several members of a Harlem fundamentalist church. The saga of three generations of people is related through flashbacks.

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter. Carson McCullers (1)
HS GENERAL A deaf mute who has lost his only friend to a hospital for the insane becomes the recipient of the confidences of several other town residents.

I am Legend. Matheson (1) HS HORROR
Robert Neville appears to be the only survival of the human race after a disease has either killed everyone or has changed them into "vampires."

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. Maya Angelou (1)
NARRATIVE The author tells of her painful childhood and adolescence, and how she grew out of a childhood fantasy that she was an enchanted white girl to self acceptance today.

The Jungle. Upton Sinclair (2) HISTORICAL
The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this turn-of-the-century novel.

A Lesson Before Dying. Ernest Gaines (1) GENERAL
When Jefferson's attorney states, "I would just as soon put a hog in the electric chair as this," disillusioned teacher Grant Wiggins is sent into the penitentiary to help Jefferson gain a sense of dignity and self-esteem before his execution.

Moby Dick. Herman Melville (2) ADVENTURE
A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale.

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My Antonia. Willa Cather. (3) HISTORICAL
Immigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies.

Out of the Easy. Ruta Sepetys (1) HS MYSTERY
Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950 New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.

The Ox-Bow Incident. Walter Van Tilburg Clark (2) HISTORICAL
When a group of citizens discovers one of their members has been murdered by cattle rustlers, they form an illegal posse, pursue the murderers, and lynch them.

A Prayer for Owen Meany. John Irving (1) GENERAL
The captivating story of a dwarf boy who accidentally kills his friend's mother and becomes convinced he is an instrument of God.

A Raisin in the Sun. Lorraine Hansberry (1) 812 HAN
The drama of an African-American family which is united in love and pride as they struggle to overcome poverty.

Red Badge of Courage. Stephen Crane (4) HISTORICAL
During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

The Scarlet Letter. Nathaniel Hawthorne (3) HISTORICAL
An adulterous Puritan woman keeps secret the identity of the father of her illegitimate child.

Song of Solomon. Toni Morrison (3) HS GENERAL
Magical realist story of 3 generations of the African-American family, and the upheavals caused by their move to the American North from the South.

Snow Falling on Cedars. David Guterson (1) HS MYSTERY
In 1954 the murder of a local fisherman on an isolated island in Puget Sound stirs up memories of World War II, and the internment of the island's Japanese population.

The Statistical Probability of Love at First Site. Jennifer Smith (1) HS ROMANCE
Hadley and Oliver fall in love on the flight from New York to London, but after a cinematic kiss, they lose track of each other at the airport until fate brings them back together on a very momentous day.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Betty Smith (1) GENERAL
Young Francie Nolan experiences the problems of growing up in a Brooklyn, New York slum.

Uncle Tom's Cabin. Harriet Beecher Stowe (1) HISTORICAL
The moving abolitionist novel that fueled the fire of the human rights debate in 1852 and melodramatically condemned the institution of slavery.

Contemporary American Literature

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Sherman Alexie (1) HS GENERAL
Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, was born an outsider with water on his brain, lopsided eyes, and an IQ oppressed by extreme poverty and a mediocre reservation education.

All the Light We Cannot See. Anthony Doerr (HS HISTORICAL)
A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast.

All the Pretty Horses. Cormac McCarthy (1) HS ADVENTURE
McCarthy's great epic Border Trilogy whose first novel, *All the Pretty Horses*, has become

McCarthy's most famous. It tells the story of 20th century cowboys.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1. M.T. Anderson (1) HS HISTORICAL
Set during the American Revolution, Octavian is raised as a pampered African prince by a society of Enlightenment philosophers who view him as an experiment. Realizing that his freedom is an illusion, Octavian sets off on a journey to find freedom and a place in the world.

Autobiography of a Face. Lucy Grealy (1) NARRATIVE
Autobiographical story of a woman growing up disfigured and coming to terms with herself.

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The Blind Side. Michael Lewis (1) NARRATIVE
Michael Oher, a homeless black teen taken under the wing of the Touhys, a wealthy white Memphis family. Oher's size and speed on the football field bring him accolades. But learning the game's strategy and making it as a student take the help of his new family, coaches, and tutor.

Bone Gap. Laura Ruby (1) HS Mystery
18 yr old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation, and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying.

Charles and Emma. Deborah Heiligman (1)
NARRATIVE Charles Darwin and his wife, Emma, adored one another, but their religious beliefs were fundamentally at odds.

Cold Mountain. Charles Frazier (1) HS HISTORICAL
The story of two people's lives as they endure the Civil War to once again find each other and start their lives together.

Copper Sun. Sharon Draper (1) HISTORICAL
Two fifteen-year-old girls—one a slave and the other an indentured servant—escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

A Curse Dark as Gold. Elizabeth Bunce (1) FANTASY
Charlotte faces an uphill battle to keep her woolen mill running, with a huge mortgage and...a curse?

Deadline. Chris Crutcher (2) HS GENERAL
Just before his senior year, Ben Wolf is diagnosed with a rare, incurable leukemia. At 18, he has the legal right to keep the news to himself until he's ready to reveal it. With only his doctor and therapist in on his secret, Ben sets out to live an entire lifetime in a year.

Eragon. Christopher Paolini (1) FANTASY
While exploring the forest, 15-year-old Eragon discovers an odd blue gemstone—a dragon egg, fated to hatch in his care.

The Fall. Bethany Griffin (1) HS HORROR
Madeline and her twin brother Roderick, suffer from the Usher family illness. She hears the House talking to her, filling her dreams, controlling her actions, and ensuring she never leaves the property.

Feed. M.T. Anderson (1) HS SCI-FI
In this society your brain cyberfeed provides an endless stream of information, entertainment, and advertising. When Violet's feed is disrupted, she's cast adrift and

everyone is forced to examine the power of the feed in his/her life.

First Part Last. Angela Johnson (1) HS GENERAL
Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven. Mitch Albom (2)
HS GENERAL A bitter eighty-three-year-old war veteran who believes his life is meaningless dies while trying to save a little girl and finds himself in heaven, where five people from his past—some loved ones, some strangers—explain what his years on Earth really meant, and whether or not he succeeded in saving the child.

Friday Night Lights. H.G. Bissinger (1) HS
NARRATIVE Explores the culture of high school football by focusing on the town of Odessa, Texas.

Going Bovine. Libba Bray (2) HS ADVENTURE
Cameron, a 16-year-old slacker has been diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jacob, "mad cow" disease. Cameron begins a quest with many parallels to the hopeless but inspirational efforts of Don Quixote, about whom Cameron had been reading before his illness.

Go Set a Watchman. Harper Lee (HS GENERAL)
Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch—"Scout"—returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her.

The Guns of August. Barbara Tuchman (1) NARRATIVE
The turning point of the year 1914--the month leading up to WWI and the first month of the war.

Heaven is for Real. Todd Burpo (2 +Kindle)
NARRATIVE A young boy emerges from a life-saving surgery with remarkable stories of his visit to Heaven.

The Help. Kathryn Stockett (1) HS GENERAL
In Jackson, Mississippi, in 1962, there are lines that are not crossed. With the civil rights movement exploding all around them, three women start a movement of their own, forever changing a town and the way women--black and white, mothers and daughters--view one another.

House Rules. Rachel Sontag (1) NARRATIVE

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A memoir of a father obsessed with control and the daughter who fights his suffocating grasp.

Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon, the victim of a sexual assault and murder, looks on from the afterlife as her family deals with their grief, and waits for her killer to be brought to some type of justice.

Impossible. Nancy Werlin (1) HS FANTASY
When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes to break the curse she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born in order to save them both.

My Sister's Keeper. Jodi Picoult (2) HS GENERAL
Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.

In the Time of the Butterflies. Julia Alvarez (1) HS HISTORICAL
Three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper does not mention that a fourth sister lives.

Nineteen Minutes. Jodi Picoult (2) HS GENERAL
Seventeen-year-old Peter Houghton wakes up one day, loads his backpack with four guns, walks into the school cafeteria, and kills nine students and one teacher in the span of nineteen minutes. Why?

An Invisible Thread. Laura Schroff (1) NARRATIVE
She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back.

October Sky. Homer Hickam (1) HS NARRATIVE
Faced with an uncertain future, Homer Hickam nurtured a dream: to send rockets into outer space. Homer fell in with a group of misfits who learned how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated. As the boys began to light up the starry skies with their flaming projectiles and dreams of glory, Coalwood, and the Hickams, would never be the same.

The Joy Luck Club. Amy Tan (1) HS GENERAL
In 1949, four Chinese women--drawn together by the shadow of their past--begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks and "say" stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club--and forge a relationship that binds them for more than three decades.

Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You. Hanna Jensen (1) HISTORICAL
Before one fateful April day, Jeanne lived the life of a typical Rwandan girl. She fought with her little sister, went to school, and teased her brother. Then, in one horrifying night, everything changed.

Kindred. Octavia E. Butler (1) HS SCI-FI
Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South.

The Radioactive Boy Scout. Ken Silverstein (1) NARRATIVE
What would you do if you came home to find your neighborhood quarantined? Learn the true story of how

The Last Lecture. Randy Pausch (1) NARRATIVE
What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? When Randy Pausch, a professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend. Laura Hillenbrand (1) NARRATIVE
Seabiscuit was a discarded, bottom-level race horse that became a champion with the help of three men.

Long Way Gone. Ishmael Beah (1) NARRATIVE
This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. Ishmael Beah tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

Secret Life of Bees. Sue Monk Kidd (1) HS GENERAL
Searching for the truth about her mother's life and death, a grieving Lily finds the answers, love, and acceptance where she least expects it.

Sold. Patricia McCormick (1) HS POETRY
Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape.

The Lovely Bones. Alice Sebold (1) HS GENERAL

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Speak. Laurie Halse Anderson (2) HS MYSTERY A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

A Sudden Light. Garth Stein (1) HS MYSTERY A family confronts long-buried secrets as it seeks forgiveness and redemption.

Sunrise Over Fallujah. Walter Dean Myers (2) HS GENERAL Robin believes in his country and volunteers to fight in Iraq; but when he arrives he realizes that fighting for freedom is not always black and white.

The Things They Carried. Tim O'Brien (2) HS NARRATIVE Each of the 22 tales relates the exploits and personalities of a fictional platoon of American soldiers in Vietnam.

Thirteen Reasons Why. Jay Asher (2) HS GENERAL When Clay Jenson plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide.

Unbroken. Laura Hillenbrand (1) NARRATIVE An unforgettable story of a young lieutenant's journey into extremity, "Unbroken" is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

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