

Suggested Works of “Literary Merit” from the AP Literature Exam, 1971-2016

You may choose a novel from the list below for your Independent Novel Project. If a work of literary merit is not listed, it is because I know you have likely studied it in English in years prior or we have or are going to read it this year. The point is to read something you haven’t already read. If you want to read a work that is not listed here, you must receive permission from Ms. Stokes.

A

Absalom, Absalom by William Faulkner (76, 00, 10, 12)
Adam Bede by George Eliot (06)
The Adventures of Augie March by Saul Bellow (13)
The Aeneid by Virgil (06)
Agnes of God by John Pielmeier (00)
The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton (97, 02, 03, 08, 12, 14)
Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood (00, 04, 08)
All the King’s Men by Robert Penn Warren (00, 02, 04, 07, 08, 09, 11)
All My Sons by Arthur Miller (85, 90)
All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy (95, 96, 06, 07, 08, 10, 11, 13)
America is in the Heart by Carlos Bulosan (95)
An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser (81, 82, 95, 03)
American Pastoral by Philip Roth (09)
The American by Henry James (05, 07, 10)
Angels in America by Tony Kushner (09)
Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner (10)
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy (80, 91, 99, 03, 04, 06, 08, 09)
Another Country by James Baldwin (95, 10, 12)
Antigone by Sophocles (79, 80, 90, 94, 99, 03, 05, 09, 11, 14)
Anthony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare (80, 91)
Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz by Mordecai Richler (94)
Armies of the Night by Norman Mailer (76)
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner (78, 89, 90, 94, 01, 04, 06, 07, 09)
As You Like It by William Shakespeare (92 05, 06, 10)
Atonement by Ian McEwan (07, 11, 13)
Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man by James Weldon Johnson (02, 05)
The Awakening by Kate Chopin (87, 88, 91, 92, 95, 97, 99, 02, 04, 07, 09, 11, 14)

B

Beloved by Toni Morrison (90, 99, 01, 03, 05, 07, 09, 10, 11, 14, 15)
A Bend in the River by V. S. Naipaul (03, 15)
Benito Cereno by Herman Melville (89)
Billy Budd by Herman Melville (79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 99, 02, 04, 05, 07, 08, 15)
The Birthday Party by Harold Pinter (89, 97)
Black Boy by Richard Wright (06, 08, 13, 15)
Bleak House by Charles Dickens (94, 00, 04, 09, 10)
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya (94, 96, 97, 99, 04, 05, 06, 08)

The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood (07, 11)
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (95, 08, 09)
Bone: A Novel by Fae M. Ng (03)
The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan (06, 07, 11)
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (89, 05, 09, 10)
Breath, Eyes, Memory by Edwidge Danticat (13)
Brideshead Revisted by Evelyn Waugh (12)
Brighton Rock by Graham Greene (79)
Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos (09)
The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevski (90, 08)
Brown Girl, Brownstones by Paule Marshall (13)
The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Strout (16)

C

Candida by George Bernard Shaw (80)
Candide by Voltaire (80, 86, 87, 91, 95, 96, 04, 06, 10)
The Caretaker by Harold Pinter (85)
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller (82, 85, 87, 89, 94, 01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11, 15)
The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger (01, 08, 11, 13)
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams (00)
Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood (94, 08, 09, 13, 15)
The Centaur by John Updike (81)
Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko (94, 96, 97, 99, 01, 03, 05, 06, 07, 09, 12)
The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov (71, 77, 06, 07, 09, 10)
The Cider House Rules by John Irving (13)
The Chosen by Chaim Potok (08, 13)
Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier (06, 08)
The Color Purple by Alice Walker (92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 05, 08, 09, 12, 13)
Coming Through Slaughter by Michael Ondaatje (01)
Copenhagen by Michael Frayn (09)
The Country of the Pointed Firs by Sarah Orne Jewett (10)
Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton (85, 87, 91, 95, 96, 07, 09)
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevski (76, 79, 80, 82, 88, 96, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 09, 10, 11)
The Crossing by Cormac McCarthy (09)

D

Daisy Miller by Henry James (97, 03, 12)
Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel (01)
David Copperfield by Charles Dickens (78, 83, 06, 13)
The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy (86)
Delta Wedding by Eudora Welty (97)
Desire under the Elms by Eugene O'Neill (81)
Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler (97)
The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri (06)
The Diviners by Margaret Laurence (95)

Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe (79, 86, 99, 04, 11)

Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak (10)

The Dollmaker by Harriet Arnot (91)

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes (01, 04, 06, 08)

Dreaming in Cuban by Cristina Garcia (03)

Dutchman by Amiri Baraka/Leroi Jones (03, 06)

E

East of Eden by John Steinbeck (06)

Emma by Jane Austen (96, 08)

An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen (76, 80, 87, 99, 01, 07)

Equus by Peter Shaffer (92, 99, 00, 01, 08, 09)

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton (80, 85, 03, 05, 06, 07, 14)

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Foer (16)

F

The Fall by Albert Camus (81)

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway (99, 04, 09)

The Father by August Strindberg (01)

Fathers and Sons by Ivan Turgenev (90)

Faust by Johann Goethe (02, 03)

The Federalist by Alexander Hamilton (76)

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry (03)

Fifth Business by Robertson Davis (00, 07)

The Fixer by Bernard Malamud (07)

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway (03, 06)

A Free Life: A Novel by Ha Jin (10)

G

A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines (00, 11)

Germinal by Emile Zola (09)

A Gesture Life by Chang-Rae Lee (04, 05, 15)

Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen (00, 04)

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy (10, 11, 13)

Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien (01, 06, 10)

The Golden Bowl by Henry James (09)

The Good Soldier by Ford Maddox Ford (00, 11)

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck (95, 03, 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (79, 80, 88, 89, 92, 95, 96, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 10, 12, 13, 15)

Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin (83, 88, 90, 05, 09)

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift (87, 89, 01, 04, 06, 09)

H

The Hairy Ape by Eugene O'Neill (89, 0994, 97, 99, 00)

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (03, 09)

Hard Times by Charles Dickens (87, 90, 09)
The Heart of the Matter by Graham Greene (71)
Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen (79, 92, 00, 02, 03, 05)
Henry IV, Parts I and II by William Shakespeare (80, 90, 08)
Henry V by William Shakespeare (02)
A High Wind in Jamaica by Richard Hughes (08)
The Homecoming by Harold Pinter (78, 90)
Home to Harlem by Claude McKay (10)
A House for Mr. Biswas by V. S. Naipul (10)
House Made of Dawn by N. Scott Momaday (95, 06, 09)
The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton (04, 07, 10)
The House of Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne (89)
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros (08, 10, 13)

I

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (06)
The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai (10)
In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien (00)
In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez (05)
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison (76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15)

J

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (78, 79, 80, 88, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 00, 05, 07, 08, 10, 13)
Jasmine by Bharati Mukherjee (99, 10, 13)
J.B. by Archibald MacLeish (81, 94)
Joe Turner's Come and Gone by August Wilson (00, 04)
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan (97, 03, 13)
Joseph Andrews by Henry Fielding (99)
Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy (71, 76, 80, 85, 87, 95, 04, 09, 10)
Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare (82, 97, 05, 07, 09)
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair (77, 78, 82, 88, 89, 90, 96, 09)

K

Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami (08)
King Lear by William Shakespeare (77, 78, 82, 88, 89, 90, 96, 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 08, 10, 11, 12, 14)
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (07, 08, 09, 15)

L

Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde (09)
The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper (15)
Letters from an American Farmer by St. John de Crèvecoeur (76), 11)
Linden Hills by Gloria Naylor (14)
Light in August by William Faulkner (71, 79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 95, 99, 03, 06, 11)

The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman (85, 90, 10)
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (08)
Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neill (90, 03, 07)
Look Homeward, Angel by Thomas Wolfe (10)
Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad (77, 78, 82, 86, 00, 03, 07)
Lord of the Flies by William Golding (85, 08, 15)
The Loved One by Evelyn Waugh (89)
Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich (95)

M

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert (80, 85, 04, 05, 06, 09, 10)
Maggie: A Girl of the Streets by Stephen Crane (12)
Main Street by Sinclair Lewis (87, 09)
Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw (79, 96, 04, 07, 09, 11)
Man and Superman by George Bernard Shaw (81)
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen (03, 06, 15)
Master Harold...and the Boys by Athol Fugard (03, 08, 09)
The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy (94, 99, 00, 02, 07, 10, 11)
M. Butterfly by David Henry Wang (95, 11, 12)
Medea by Euripides (82, 92, 95, 01, 03, 15)
The Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers (97, 08)
The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards (09, 14)
The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare (85, 91, 95, 02, 03, 11, 15)
Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka (78, 89)
Middlemarch by George Eliot (95, 04, 05, 07)
Middle Passage by V. S. Naipaul (06)
A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare (06, 12)
The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot (90, 92, 04)
The Misanthrope by Moliere (08)
Miss Lonelyhearts by Nathanael West (89)
Moby Dick by Herman Melville (76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 89, 94, 96, 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 09)
Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe (76, 77, 86, 87, 95, 09)
Monkey Bridge by Lan Cao (00, 03)
The Moor's Last Sigh by Salman Rushdie (07)
Mother Courage and Her Children by Berthold Brecht (85, 87, 06)
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf (94, 97, 04, 05, 07, 11)
Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw (87, 90, 95, 02, 09)
Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare (97, 14)
Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot (76, 80, 85, 95, 07, 11)
My Ántonia by Willa Cather (03, 08, 10, 12)
My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok (03)

N

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri (09, 10, 13)

Native Son by Richard Wright (79, 82, 85, 87, 95, 01, 04, 09, 11, 12)
Native Speaker by Chang-Rae Lee (99, 03, 05, 07, 08)
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro (09, 10)
Night by Elie Weisel (15)
No Exit by John Paul Sartre (86, 12)
Noah's Compass by Anne Tyler (14)
No-No Boy by John Okada (95)
Notes from the Underground by Fyodor Dostoevski (89)

O

Obasan by Joy Kogawa (94, 95, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10)
The Octopus by Frank Norris (09)
The Odyssey by Homer (86, 06, 10, 15)
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles (77, 85, 88, 00, 03, 04, 11)
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (01)
Old School by Tobia Wolff (08)
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (09, 15)
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn (05, 10)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey (01, 12, 15)
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (89, 04, 12)
O Pioneers! by Willa Cather (06)
The Optimist's Daughter by Eudora Welty (94)
The Orestia by Aeschylus (90)
Orlando: A Biography by Virginia Woolf (04)
Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood (12, 14)
Othello by William Shakespeare (79, 85, 88, 92, 95, 03, 04, 07, 11, 14, 15)
The Other by Thomas Tryon (10)
Our Mutual Friend by Charles Dickens (90)
Our Town by Thornton Wilder (86, 97, 09)
Out of Africa by Isaak Dinesen (06)

P

Pale Fire by Vladimir Nabokov (01)
Pamela by Samuel Richardson (86)
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster (71, 77, 78, 88, 91, 92, 07, 09, 12)
Paradise Lost by John Milton (85, 86, 10)
Passing by Nella Larsen (11)
Peer Gynt by Henrik Ibsen (06)
Père Goriot by Honore de Balzac (02)
Persuasion by Jane Austen (90, 05, 07)
Phaedre by Jean Racine (92, 03)
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson (96, 99, 07, 08, 10, 12)
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (02)
The Plague by Albert Camus (02, 09, 12)
Pnin by Vladimir Nabokov (97)
Pocho by Jose Antonio Villarreal (02, 08)

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (10, 11, 12, 14)
Portrait of a Lady by Henry James (88, 92, 96, 03, 05, 07, 11, 14)
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce (76, 77, 80, 86, 88, 96, 99, 04, 05, 08, 09, 10, 11, 13)
The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene (95)
Praisesong for the Widow by Paule Marshall (96)
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving (09, 14)
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (83, 88, 92, 97, 08, 11, 12)
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie by Muriel Spark (90, 08)
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (13)
Push by Sapphire (07)
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw (03, 05, 08)

R

Ragtime by E. L. Doctorow (03, 07)
The Rape of the Lock by Alexander Pope (81)
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane (08, 15)
Redburn by Herman Melville (87)
The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro (00, 03, 11)
Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie (08, 09)
The Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy (07)
Rhinoceros by Eugene Ionesco (09)
Richard III by William Shakespeare (79)
A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean (08)
The Road by Cormac McCarthy (10)
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (10)
A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf (76)
A Room with a View by E. M. Forster (03)
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard (81, 94, 00, 04, 05, 06, 10, 11)

S

Saint Joan by George Bernard Shaw (95)
The Sandbox by Edward Albee (71)
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (13)
Sent for You Yesterday by John Edgar Wideman (03)
A Separate Peace by John Knowles (82, 07, 13)
Set This House on Fire by William Styron (11)
The Shipping News by E. Annie Proulx (97)
Siddhartha by Herman Hesse (13)
Silas Marner by George Eliot (02)
Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser (87, 02, 04, 09, 10, 15)
Sister of My Heart by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (10)
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut (91, 04)
Snow by Orhan Pamuk (09)
Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson (00, 10, 12)

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See (16)
A Soldier's Play by Charles Fuller (11)
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison (81, 88, 96, 00, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10, 13)
Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence (77, 90)
Sophie's Choice by William Styron (09, 15)
The Sorrows of Young Werther by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (13)
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner (77, 86, 97, 01, 07, 08, 13)
The Stone Angel by Margaret Laurence (96, 04)
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski (11, 13)
The Stranger by Albert Camus (79, 82, 86, 04)
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams (91, 92, 01, 04, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 14)
The Street by Ann Petry (07)
Sula by Toni Morrison (92, 97, 02, 04, 07, 08, 10, 12)
Surfacing by Margaret Atwood (05)
The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway (85, 91, 95, 96, 04, 05, 12)

T

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens (82, 91, 04, 08, 14)
Tartuffe by Moliere (87)
The Tempest by William Shakespeare (71, 78, 96, 03, 05, 07, 10)
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy (82, 91, 03, 06, 07, 12, 14, 15)
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (91, 97, 03, 09, 10, 11, 14)
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien (04, 09)
A Thousand Acres by Jane Smiley (06, 14)
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (11, 13)
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (08, 09, 11, 13, 15)
To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf (77, 86, 88, 08)
Tom Jones by Henry Fielding (90, 00, 06, 08)
Tracks by Louise Erdrich (05)
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith (13)
The Trial by Franz Kafka (88, 89, 00, 11)
Tristram Shandy by Laurence Sterne (86)
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare (85, 94, 96, 11)
Typical American by Gish Jen (02, 03, 05)

U

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe (87, 09)
U.S.A. (trilogy) by John Dos Passos (09)

V

The Vicar of Wakefield by Oliver Goldsmith (06)
Victory by Joseph Conrad (83)
Volpone by Ben Jonson (83)

W

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett (77, 85, 86, 89, 94, 01, 09, 12)
The Warden by Anthony Trollope (96)
Washington Square by Henry James (90)
The Wasteland by T. S. Eliot (81)
Watch on the Rhine by Lillian Hellman (87)
The Way of the World by William Congreve (71)
The Way We Live Now by Anthony Trollope (06)
*We Were the Mulvaney*s by Joyce Carol Oates (07)
When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka (12)
Who Has Seen the Wind by W. O. Mitchell (11)
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee (88, 94, 00, 04, 07, 11, 15)
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys (89, 92, 05, 07, 08)
The Wild Duck by Henrik Ibsen (78)
Winter in the Blood by James Welch (95)
Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare (82, 89, 95, 06)
Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor (82, 89, 95, 09, 10)
Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston (91, 08, 13)
The Women of Brewster Place by Gloria Naylor (09, 10, 12, 14)
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (71, 77, 78, 79, 83, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 99, 01, 06, 07, 08, 10, 12, 15)

Y

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris (16)

Z

The Zoo Story by Edward Albee (82, 01)
Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez (95)