



High School Recommended Reading List

Biography/Non-fiction-

- *Night (Elie Wiesel)- The terrifying record of Jewish, Transylvanian teenager, Elie Wiesel's memories of the death of his family and his incarceration in Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.
- *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank)- Born in 1929, Anne Frank received a blank diary on her 13th birthday, just weeks before she and her family went into hiding in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam along with another family. Her diary chronicles their time in hiding and shows a remarkable girl who died at 15 in a concentration camp and shows the madness of the Holocaust.
- *Foxe's Book of Martyrs- An apocalyptically oriented English Protestant account of the persecutions of Protestants, mainly in England, and other groups from former centuries who were seen by Foxe and others of his contemporaries, such as John Bale, to be forerunners of the Protestant Reformation through whom the lineage of the church of England could be traced.
- *Jesus Freaks (dc Talk)- This Gold Medallion-nominated book opens the eyes of a new generation to the persecution of Christians around the world. Offering stories of martyrs past and present, it's a wake-up call to prayer and to lives of unashamed faith.
- *The Confessions of St. Augustine (Augustine of Hippo)- A diary of his innermost thoughts and journey to God's grace and the honest questions he asked along the way; Augustine is recognized as a fellow human being rather than a saint, his confessions will stretch your mind and enrich your soul.
- *Quiet Strength (Tony Dungy)- The memoir of a football coach who refuses to put his job before his faith or family and what success really is.
- *Chinese Cinderella (Adeline Yen Mah)-Adeline revisits the territory she covered in her adult bestseller, *Falling Leaves*, for this powerful and poignant memoir aimed at young readers.
- *End of the Spear (Steve Saint)-A meeting between Christian missionary Nate Saint and the leader of the Waodanis in South America goes terribly wrong when Nate's inability to understand the Waodani language brings himself and four of his fellow missionaries to be savagely murdered by the tribesmen. Years later, Nate's son returns to continue the work his father started.
- *Secret Believers (Brother Andrew)-What happens when Muslims believe in Christ
- *This Boy's Life (Tobias Wolff)-a memoir about a boy and his mother who has dysfunctional boyfriends and a rough life.
- *The Passing of the Night: My Seven Years as a Prisoner of the North Vietnamese (Colonel Robinson Risner)-An autobiography describing his time as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.

Classics-

- *Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)-A man and a woman gradually unite after one is held back by pride and the other blinded by prejudice.
- *Sense and Sensibility (Jane Austen)- The romances of two very different sisters, the older Elinor, thoughtful, calm, and considerate, and the younger Marianne, emotional and wildly romantic. Both are looking for a husband, but neither Elinor's reason nor Marianne's passion can lead them to perfect happiness.
- *Persuasion (Jane Austen)-A story of romance between Anne Elliot and naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, a happily engaged couple until a friend of Anne's, Lady Russel, persuades Anne that Frederick isn't good enough for her. Eight years later, Frederick returns a wealthy captain in the navy while Anne's family teters on the edge of bankruptcy.
- *To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee)- An Alabama woman unjustly accuses a black man of attacking her, and a small town lawyer defends him. Told from the point of view of the younger of his two children, the story tells the story of the town's prejudice and their reactions during the very controversial trial.
- *Anne of Green Gables (L.M. Montgomery)- Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.
- *The Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyan)-The allegory of Christian's search for heaven describes his perseverance in pursuing his goal despite physical and spiritual obstacles.
- *Hind's Feet on High Places (Hannah Hurnard)-An allegory of the Christian life.
- *Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte)- Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of somber Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of terror and hatred on the Yorkshire moors.
- *The Last of the Mohicans (James Fenimore Cooper)- Set in pre-Revolutionary times, this story tells of the Indians caught in the struggle of Europeans for the North American continent.
- *David Copperfield (Charles Dickens)- His sad boyhood, his youth at school, his adventures in the business world, and his happy marriage make up the life of David Copperfield and present a picture of 19th century England.
- *A Tale of Two Cities (Charles Dickens)- This story of the French Revolution, a fictional account based on fact, exposes human nature to be cruel and evil.
- *Oliver Twist (Charles Dickens)- An orphan in nineteenth-century London is forced to practice thievery and live a life of crime.
- *The Three Musketeers (Alexandre Dumas)- Four adventurous 17th century Frenchmen Porthos, Athos, Aramis, and the dashing would-be musketeer D'Artagnan
- *The Count of Monte Cristo (Alexandre Dumas)- Set against the tumultuous years of the post-Napoleonic era, this historical romance recounts the swashbuckling adventures of Edmond Dantes, a dashing young sailor falsely accused of treason, his imprisonment, dramatic escape, and carefully wrought revenge.

- *The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald)- A self-made man makes his money by mysterious means and spends it on disreputable parties.
- *Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Thomas Hardy)- A beautiful young girl from a once proud, but now impoverished family is seduced by a gentleman far above her station and class. Tess repents and tries to atone for her momentary lapse of morals and decency. The story ends in a dramatic climax at the site of Stone Henge.
- *The House of Seven Gables (Thomas Hardy)- Based on the theme that the sins of the fathers are passed on to the succeeding generations is the story of two New England families, the Pyncheons and the Maules.
- *The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Victor Hugo)- Quasimodo, the hunchback, is trapped between his love for the gypsy girl, Esmeralda, and his love for the archdeacon, his master and protector. These loyalties create an irreconcilable conflict, and a choice must be made.
- *Robinson Crusoe (Daniel Defoe)- An Englishman's resourcefulness enables him to survive for almost thirty years on the desert island where he is shipwrecked.
- *Gulliver's Travels (Jonathan Swift)- On a voyage in the South Seas, an Englishman finds himself shipwrecked in Lilliput, a land of people only six inches high.
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain)- A poor white boy and a runaway slave find murder, family feuds, villains, and friendship while traveling on a raft on the Mississippi River.
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Mark Twain)- Join Tom Sawyer and his friends in a series of fantastic adventures: forming secret societies, pretending to be pirates, attending their own funerals, and even solving a murder.
- *The Red Badge of Courage (Stephen Crane)- 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 the war.
- *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)- This collection of mystery adventures includes "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Red-Headed League," and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band."
- *The Old Man and the Sea (Ernest Hemingway)- An old Cuban fisherman battles a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.
- *Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck)- The tragic story of a simple-minded gentle giant and the friend who tries to protect him, their desire to have their own rabbit farm, and the ultimate disaster that changes everything.
- *The Red Pony (John Steinbeck)- Raised on a ranch in northern California, Jody is well-schooled in the hard work and demands of a rancher's life. He is used to the way of horses, too; but nothing has prepared him for the special connection he will forge with Gabilan, the hot-tempered pony his father gives him. But when Gabilan falls ill, Jody discovers there are still lessons he must learn about the ways of nature and particularly, the ways of man.
- *A Separate Peace (John Knowles)- Compelled by the need to see a tree, the site of an ancient fifteen years before, Gene Forrester returns to his old preparatory school. The visit helps him recuperate from guilt feelings for having indirectly caused the death of his roommate.
- *Rebecca (Daphne DuMaurier)- In the great English estate of which she is the new mistress, Maxim de Winter's young and frightened second wife gradually realizes that a mystery surrounds the death of Rebecca, the glamorous former mistress, who has been dead for eight months.

Mythology-

- *Bulfinch's Mythology (Thomas Bulfinch)-The age of fable; The age of chivalry; Legends of Charlemagne
- *The Iliad (Homer)- Homer's great epic poem describing the Trojan War and the rage of Achilles
- *The Odyssey (Homer)-Homer's epic poem describes the wanderings of Odysseus after the fall of Troy.
- *Metamorphoses (Ovid)-Many of the well-known myths and legends of ancient Greece and Rome.

Science Fiction/Fantasy-

- *The Martian Chronicles (Ray Bradbury)- Connected stories describe man's attempt to explore and settle Mars during the 21st century.
- *Fahrenheit 451 (Ray Bradbury)-Set in the future where all printed material is banned, Guy Montag, who is in charge of burning forbidden books, takes home a book and begins to read it.
- *Out of the Silent Planet (C.S. Lewis)-A philologist, kidnapped by a physicist and a promoter, is taken via spaceship from England to Mars in this first volume of a trilogy.
- *Perelandra (C.S. Lewis)- Book 2 of the Space Trilogy continues the adventures of the extraordinary Dr. Ransom. Pitted against that greatest of human weaknesses, temptation, the great man must battle evil on a new world when it is invaded by the Devil's agent.
- *That Hideous Strength (C.S. Lewis)- Last book of the Space Trilogy concludes the adventures of Dr. Ransom. Finding himself in a world of superior alien beings and scientific experiments run amok, he struggles with questions of ethics and morality
- *Lord of the Rings trilogy (J.R.R. Tolkien)- Frodo and his faithful servant, Sam, with a small group of companions, have to carry the Ring of Power to the one place it could be destroyed.
- *Black [series-Red, White] (Ted Dekker)- Fleeing his assailants through deserted alleyways, Thomas Hunter narrowly escapes to the roof of a building. Then a silent bullet from the night clips his head...and his world goes black. From the blackness comes an amazing reality of another world where evil is contained. Where does the dream end and reality begin?
- *The Door Within [series] (Wayne Thomas Batson)-Three ancient scrolls beckon high school student Aidan Thomas to enter a realm of knights, kings, and unusual creatures, but he must rely on instinct and his latent athletic ability to deal with the terror, tempest, and treason offered by this new world.

Modern-

*The House on Mango Street (Sandra Cisneros)- Esperanza Cordero, a girl coming of age in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

*Caramelo (Sandra Cisneros)-During her family's annual car trip from Chicago to Mexico City, a young Mexican American woman listens to stories about her family, including her grandmother, the descendant of a renowned dynasty of shawl makers.

*Woman Hollering Creek (Sandra Cisneros)-A story collection of breathtaking range and authority, whose characters give voice to the vibrant and varied life on both sides of the Mexican border. The women in these stories offer tales of pure discovery, filled with moments of infinite and intimate wisdom.

*Three (Ted Dekker)- Kevin Parson is driving his car late one summer day when, suddenly, his cell phone rings. A man who identifies himself as Slater speaks in a breathy voice: You have exactly 3 minutes to confess your sin to the world. Refuse, and the car you're driving will blow sky high. Who would make such a call? What sin? Kevin ditches the car. 3 minutes later, a massive explosion sets him on a collision course with madness.

*Abram's Daughter's series (Beverly Lewis)-

The Covenant, The Betrayal, The Sacrifice, The Prodigal, The Revelation

*Uglies [series] (Scott Westerfeld)-In a world in which everyone is transformed into a stunning beauty at age 16, Tally has doubts.

*Monsoon Summer (Mitali Perkins)-Secretly in love with her best friend and business partner Steve, fifteen-year-old Jazz must spend the summer away from him when her family goes to India during that country's rainy season to help set up a clinic.

*My Nights at the Improv (Jan Siebold)-A freshman is afraid of taking risks at her new school, but as she secretly observes an improvisational theater class week after week, she begins to apply its principles to her own life.

*Hope was Here (Joan Bauer)-When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. Newbery Honor.

*The Night in Question (Tobias Wolff)-short stories

Historical Fiction-

*An Acquaintance with Darkness (Ann Rinaldi)-When her mother dies and her best friend's family is implicated in the assassination of President Lincoln, fourteen-year-old Emily Pigbush must go live with an uncle she suspects of being involved in stealing bodies for medical research.

*Or Give Me Death: a novel of Patrick Henry's family (Ann Rinaldi)-With their father away most of the time advocating independence for the American colonies, the children of Patrick Henry try to raise themselves, manage the family plantation, and care for their mentally ill mother.

*A Voice in the Wind {Mark of the Lion trilogy} (Francine Rivers)-Torn by her love for a handsome aristocrat, a young slave girl clings to her faith in the living God for deliverance from the forces of decadent Rome.

*Fire From the Rock (Sharon M. Draper)-A young girl must decide whether or not to be part of the social change in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957, by being one of the first students to integrate into Central High and face the prejudice, or stay where she is with her friends.

*The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)-Trying to make sense of the horrors of WWII, Death relates the story of Liesel-a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.