

# College Bound Reading List

## Compiled by Arrowhead Library System

### American Literature

- Agee, James: **A Death in the Family**  
Story of loss and heartbreak felt when a young father dies.
- Anderson, Sherwood: **Winesburg, Ohio**  
A collection of short stories lays bare the life of a small town in the Midwest.
- Baldwin, James: **Go Tell It On the Mountain**  
Semi-autobiographical novel about a 14-year-old black youth's religious conversion.
- Bellamy, Edward: **Looking Backward: 2000-1887**  
Written in 1887 about a young man who travels in time to a utopian year 2000, where economic security and a healthy moral environment have reduced crime.
- Bellow, Saul: **Seize the Day**  
A son grapples with his love and hate for an unworthy father.
- Bradbury, Ray: **Fahrenheit 451**  
Reading is a crime and firemen burn books in this futuristic society.
- Cather, Willa: **My Antonia**  
Immigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies.
- Chopin, Kate :**The Awakening**  
The story of a New Orleans woman who abandons her husband and children to search for love and self-understanding.
- Clark, Walter Van Tilburg: **The Ox-Bow Incident**  
When a group of citizens discovers one of their members has been murdered by cattle rustlers, they form an illegal posse, pursue the murderers, and lynch them.
- Cormier, Robert: **The Chocolate War**  
Jerry Renault challenges the power structure of his school when he refuses to sell chocolates for the annual fundraiser.
- Crane, Stephen: **The Red Badge of Courage**  
During the Civil War, Henry Fleming joins the army full of romantic visions of battle which are shattered by combat.
- Dorris, Michael: **A Yellow Raft in Blue Water**  
Three generations of Native American women recount their searches for identity and love.
- Ellison, Ralph: **Invisible Man**  
A black man's search for himself as an individual and as a member of his race and his society.
- Faulkner, William: **As I Lay Dying**  
The Bundren family takes the ripening corpse of Addie, wife and mother, on a gruesomely comic journey.
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott: **The Great Gatsby**  
A young man corrupts himself and the American Dream to regain a lost love.
- Gaines, Ernest : **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman**

In her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from slavery to the civil rights movement.

- Hawthorne, Nathaniel: **The Scarlet Letter**  
An adulterous Puritan woman keeps secret the identity of the father of her illegitimate child.
- Heller, Joseph: **Catch-22**  
A broad comedy about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing missions.
- Hemingway, Ernest: **A Farewell to Arms**  
During World War I, an American lieutenant runs away with the woman who nurses him back to health.
- Hurston, Zora Neale: **Their Eyes Were Watching God**  
Janie repudiates many roles in her quest for self-fulfillment.
- Kesey, Ken : **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**  
A novel about a power struggle between the head nurse and one of the male patients in a mental institution.
- Lee, Harper: **To Kill a Mockingbird**  
At great peril to himself and his children, lawyer Atticus Finch defends an African-American man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town.
- Lewis, Sinclair: **Main Street**  
A young doctor's wife tries to change the ugliness, dullness and ignorance which prevail in Gopher Prairie, Minn.
- London, Jack: **Call of the Wild**  
Buck is a loyal pet dog until cruel men make him a pawn in their search for Klondike gold.
- McCullers, Carson: **The Member of the Wedding**  
A young southern girl is determined to be the third party on a honeymoon, despite all the advice against it from friends and family.
- Melville, Herman: **Moby-Dick**  
A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale.
- Morrison, Toni: **Sula**  
The lifelong friendship of two women becomes strained when one causes the other's husband to abandon her.
- O'Connor, Flannery: **A Good Man is Hard to Find**  
Social awareness, the grotesque, and the need for faith characterize these stories of the contemporary South.
- Parks, Gordon: **The Learning Tree**  
A fictional study of a black family in a small Kansas town in the 1920s.
- Plath, Sylvia: **The Bell Jar**  
The heartbreaking story of a talented young woman's descent into madness.
- Poe, Edgar Allan: **Great Tales and Poems**  
Poe is considered the father of detective stories and a master of supernatural tales.
- Potok, Chaim: **The Chosen**  
Friendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds and beliefs.
- Salinger, J.D.: **The Catcher in the Rye**

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

- Sinclair, Upton: **The Jungle**  
The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this turn-of-the-century novel.
- Steinbeck, John: **The Grapes of Wrath**  
The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the Depression.
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher: **Uncle Tom's Cabin**  
The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system.
- Tan, Amy: **The Joy Luck Club**  
After her mother's death, a young Chinese-American woman learns of her mother's tragic early life in China.
- Twain, Mark: **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**  
Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom.
- Vonnegut, Kurt: **Slaughterhouse-Five**  
Billy Pilgrim, an optometrist from Ilium, New York, shuttles between World War II Dresden and a luxurious zoo on the planet Tralfamadore.
- Walker, Alice: **The Color Purple**  
A young woman sees herself as property until another woman teaches her to value herself.
- Welty, Eudora: **Thirteen Stories**  
A collection of short stories about people and life in the deep South.
- Wolfe, Thomas: **Look Homeward, Angel**  
A novel depicting the coming of age of Eugene Gant and his passion to experience life.
- Wright, Richard: **Native Son**  
Bigger Thomas, a young man from the Chicago slums, lashes out against a hostile society by committing two murders.

## **World Literature**

- Achebe, Chinua: **Things Fall Apart**  
Okonkwo, a proud village leader, is driven to murder and suicide by European changes to his traditional Ibo society.
- Allende, Isabel: **House of the Spirits**  
The story of the Trueba family in Chile, from the turn of the century to the violent days of the overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in 1973.
- Austen, Jane: **Pride and Prejudice**  
Love and marriage among the English country gentry of Austen's day.
- Balzac, Honore de: **Pere Goriot**  
A father is reduced to poverty after giving money to his daughters.
- Borges, Jorge Luis: **Labyrinths**  
An anthology of literary fireworks based on Borges' favorite symbol.
- Bronte, Charlotte: **Jane Eyre**  
An intelligent and passionate governess falls in love with a strange, moody man tormented by dark secrets.

- Bronte, Emily: **Wuthering Heights**  
One of the masterpieces of English romanticism, this is a novel of Heathcliff and Catherine, love and revenge.
- Camus, Albert: **The Stranger**  
A man who is virtually unknown to both himself and others commits a pointless murder for which he has no explanation.
- Carroll, Lewis: **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**  
A fantasy in which Alice follows the White Rabbit to a dream world.
- Cervantes, Miguel de: **Don Quixote**  
An eccentric old gentleman sets out as a knight "tilting at windmills" to right the wrongs of the world.
- Conrad, Joseph: **Heart of Darkness**  
The novel's narrator journeys into the Congo where he discovers the extent to which greed can corrupt a good man.
- Defoe, Daniel: **Robinson Crusoe**  
The adventures of a man who spends 24 years on an isolated island.
- Dickens, Charles: **Great Expectations**  
The moving story of the rise, fall, and rise again of a humbly-born young orphan.
- Dostoevski, Feodor: **Crime and Punishment**  
A psychological novel about a poor student who murders an old woman pawnbroker and her sister.
- Eliot, George: **The Mill on the Floss**  
Maggie is miserable because her brother disapproves of her choices of romances.
- Esquivel, Laura: **Like Water for Chocolate**  
As the youngest of three daughters in a turn-of-the-century Mexican family, Tita may not marry but must remain at home to care for her mother.
- Flaubert, Gustave: **Madame Bovary**  
In her extramarital affairs, a bored young wife seeks unsuccessfully to find the emotional experiences she craves.
- Forster, E.M.: **A Passage to India**  
A young English woman in British-ruled India accuses an Indian doctor of sexual assault.
- Fuentes, Carlos: **The Death of Artemio Cruz**  
A powerful Mexican newspaper publisher recalls his life as he lies dying at age 71.
- Garcia Marquez, Gabriel: **One Hundred Years of Solitude**  
A technique called magical realism is used in this portrait of seven generations in the lives of the Buendia family.
- Gogol, Nikolai: **The Overcoat**  
Russian tales of good and evil.
- Golding, William: **Lord of the Flies**  
English schoolboys marooned on an uninhabited island test the values of civilization when they attempt to set up a society of their own.
- Grass, Gunter: **The Tin Drum**

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

- Hardy, Thomas: **Tess of the D'Urbervilles**  
The happiness of Tess and her husband is destroyed when she confesses that she bore a child as the result of a forced sexual relationship with her employer's son.
- Hesse, Hermann: **Siddhartha**  
Emerging from a kaleidoscope of experiences and pleasures, a young Brahmin ascends to a state of peace and mystic holiness.
- Huxley, Aldous: **Brave New World**  
A bitter satire of the future, in which the world is controlled by advances in science and social changes.
- Joyce, James: **A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**  
A novel about a young man growing up in Ireland and rebelling against family, country, and religion.
- Kafka, Franz: **The Trial**  
A man is tried for a crime he knows nothing about, yet for which he feels guilt.
- Lawrence, D.H.: **Sons and Lovers**  
An autobiographical novel about a youth torn between a dominant working-class father and a possessive genteel mother.
- Mann, Thomas: **Death in Venice**  
In this novella, an author becomes aware of a darker side of himself when he visits Venice.
- Orwell, George: **Animal Farm**  
Animals turn the tables on their masters.
- Pasternak, Boris: **Doctor Zhivago**  
An epic novel of Russia before and after the Bolshevik revolution.
- Paton, Alan: **Cry, the Beloved Country**  
A country Zulu pastor searches for his sick sister in Johannesburg, and discovers that she has become a prostitute and his son a murderer.
- Remarque, Erich Maria: **All Quiet on the Western Front**  
A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death.
- Scott, Sir Walter: **Ivanhoe**  
Tale of Ivanhoe, the disinherited knight, Lady Rowena, Richard the Lion-Hearted, and Robin Hood at the time of the Crusades.
- Shelley, Mary W.: **Frankenstein**  
A gothic tale of terror in which Frankenstein creates a monster from corpses.
- Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander: **One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich**  
Ivan Denisovich Shukhov endures one more day in a Siberian prison camp and finds joy in survival.
- Swift, Jonathan: **Gulliver's Travels**  
Gulliver encounters dwarfs and giants and has other strange adventures when his ship is wrecked in distant lands.
- Tolstoy, Leo: **Anna Karenina**

Anna forsakes her husband for the dashing Count Vronsky and brief happiness.

- Weisel, Elie: **Night**  
A searing account of the Holocaust as experienced by a 15-year-old boy.
- Wells, H.G.: **The Time Machine**  
A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.

## **Biography/History**

- Angelou, Maya: **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**  
An African-American writer traces her coming of age.
- Ashe, Arthur and Arnold Rampersad: **Days of Grace**  
Biography of a highly respected tennis star and citizen of the world who dies of AIDS.
- Baker, Russell: **Growing Up**  
A columnist with a sense of humor takes a gentle look at his childhood in Baltimore during the Depression.
- Berenbaum, Michael: **The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as told in the United States** Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Brown, Dee: **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**  
A narrative of the white man's conquest of the American land as the Indian victims experienced it.
- Cooke, Alistair: **Alistair Cooke's America**  
A history of the continent, with anecdotes and insight into what makes America work.
- Criddle, Jan. D. and Teeda Butt Mam: **To Destroy You Is No Loss: The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family**  
After the 1975 Communist takeover of Cambodia, Teeda's upper-class life is re-duced to surviving impossible conditions.
- Crow Dog, Mary and Richard Erdoes: **Lakota Woman**  
Mary Crow Dog stands with 2,000 other Native Americans at the site of the Wounded Knee massacre, demonstrating for Native American rights.
- Curie, Eve: **Madame Curie**  
In sharing personal papers and her own memories, a daughter pays tribute to her mother, a scientific genius.
- Delany, Sara and A. Elizabeth with Amy Hill Hearth: **Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years**  
Two daughters of former slaves tell their stories of fighting racial and gender pre-judice during the 20th century.
- Epstein, Norrie: **Friendly Shakespeare: A Thoroughly Painless Guide to the Best of the Bard.**  
Gain a perspective on Shakespeare's works through these sidelights, interpretations, anecdotes, and historical insights.
- Frank, Anne: **The Diary of a Young Girl**  
The story of a Jewish family forced by encroaching Nazis to live in hiding.
- Franklin, Benjamin: **The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin**  
Considered one of the most interesting autobiographies in English.

- Haley, Alex: **Roots**  
Traces Haley's search for the history of his family, from Africa through the era of slavery to the 20th century.
- Hersey, John: **Hiroshima**  
Six Hiroshima survivors reflect on the aftermath of the first atomic bomb.
- Karlsen, Carol: **The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England**  
The status of women in colonial society affects the Salem witch accusations.
- Keller, Helen: **The Story of My Life**  
The story of Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf, and her relationship with her devoted teacher Anne Sullivan.
- Kennedy, John F: **Profiles in Courage**  
A series of profiles of Americans who took courageous stands in public life.
- King, Martin Luther, Jr.: **A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
King's most important writings are gathered together in one source.
- Kovic, Ron: **Born on the Fourth of July**  
Paralyzed in the Vietnam War, 21-year-old Ron Kovic received little support from his country and its government.
- Machiavelli, Niccolo: **The Prince**  
A treatise giving the absolute ruler practical advice on ways to maintain a strong central government.
- Malcom X, with Alex Haley: **The Autobiography of Malcom X**  
Traces the transformation of a controversial Black Muslim figure from street hustler to religious and national leader.
- Marx, Karl: **The Communist Manifesto**  
Expresses Marx's belief in the inevitability of conflict between social classes and calls on the workers of the world to unite and revolt.
- Mathabane, Mark: **Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa**  
A tennis player breaks down racial barriers and escape to a better life in America.
- Maybury-Lewis, David: **Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World**  
Profiles members of several tribal cultures.
- McPherson, James: **Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era**  
From the Mexican War to Appomattox, aspects of the Civil War are examined.
- Mills, Kay: **This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer**  
Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper's daughter, uses her considerable courage and singing talent to become a leader in the civil rights movement.
- Plato: **The Republic**  
Plato creates an ideal society where justice is equated with health and happiness in the state and the individual.
- Rogosin, Donn: **Invisible Men: Life in Baseball's Negro Leagues**  
Negro League players finally gain recognition for their contributions to baseball.
- Thoreau, Henry David: **Walden**

In the mid-19th century, Thoreau spends 26 months alone in the woods to "front the essential facts of life."

- Tocqueville, Alexis de: **Democracy in America**  
This classic in political literature examines American society from the viewpoint of a leading French magistrate who visited the U.S. in 1831.
- Tuchman, Barbara: **A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century**  
Tuchman uses the example of a single feudal lord to trace the history of the 14th century.
- Williams, Juan: **Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-65**  
From Brown vs. the Board of Education to the Voting Rights Act, Williams outlines the social and political gains of African-Americans
- Yolen, Jane: **Favorite Folktales From Around the World**  
Yolen frames these powerful tales with explanations of historical and literary significance.

## Science

- Attenborough, David: **The Living Planet: A Portrait of the Earth**  
Various habitats expand the vision of Planet Earth.
- Bronowski, Jacob: **The Ascent of Man**  
A scientist's history of the human mind and the human condition.
- Carson, Rachel: **Silent Spring**  
Carson's original clarion call to environmental action sets the stage for saving our planet.
- Darwin, Charles: **The Origin of Species**  
The classic exposition of the theory of evolution by natural selection.
- Hawking, Stephen: **A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes**  
Cosmology becomes understandable as the author discusses the origin, evolution, and fate of our universe.
- Leopold, Aldo: **A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There**  
Leopold shares his present and future visions of a natural world.