

# College Bound Reading List For Grades 9 - 12

Books suggested for summer reading compiled by the ACS Athens English Department with thanks to Arrowhead Library System

## *American Literature*

- Atwood, Margaret. **Alias Grace**. In a mental institution in the 1800's, a psychiatrist studies the case of a woman convicted of murder.
- Bellow, Saul. **Seize the Day**. A son grapples with his love and hate for an unworthy father.
- Carr, Caleb. **The Alienist**. Story of a serial killer operating in historical New York City in early 1900's.
- Chopin, Kate. **The Awakening**. The story of a New Orleans woman who abandons her husband and children to search for love and self-understanding.
- Cormier, Robert. **The Chocolate War**. Jerry Renault challenges the power structure of his school when he refuses to sell chocolates for the annual fundraiser.
- Coelho, Paulo. **The Alchemist** and other titles. A parable exploring the meaning of life.
- Dorris, Michael . **A Yellow Raft in Blue Water** . Three generations of Native American women recount their searches for identity and love.
- DuMaurier, Daphne. **Rebecca**. A classic Gothic novel involving a young woman and the ghost of her husband's first wife.
- Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man**. A black man's search for himself as an individual and as a member of his race and his society
- 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.
- Highsmith, Patricia . **The Talented Mr. Ripley**. A young American man goes to Europe and becomes involved in murder and identity theft.
- 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.
- Kidd, Sue Monk. **The Secret Life of Bees**. A young girl runs away from home and discovers the secrets of her dead mother.
- King, Stephen **The Shining** (or other works). Classic horror fiction set in a haunted hotel in the Colorado mountains.
- Kingsolver, Barbara .**The Bean Trees**. A hilarious and touching tale of instant motherhood when young and single Taylor Greer finds an abandoned Indian baby in the backseat of her '55 Volkswagen.
- Lehane, Dennis. **Mystic River**. A mystery story set in South Boston involving childhood friends.
- Martell, Yann. **The Life of Pi**. A boy has strange and wonderful adventures when shipwrecked in the Pacific with a Bengali tiger as a companion.
- 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. **Beloved**. The spirit of a child comes back to haunt her family.
- O'Brien, Tim. **In the Lake of the Woods**. Stories of veterans of the Viet Nam War.
- Ondaatje, Michael. **The English Patient**. A critically burned patient and a Canadian nurse live out the last days of World War II in an Italian monastery.
- 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.

- Sallinger, J.D. **Franny and Zooey**. Franny and her brother Zooey both struggle to find meaning in a world of conformity and hypocrisy.
- 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.
- 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.
- Wells, H.G. **The Time Machine**. A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.
- 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.
- Wolfe, Tom. **The Bonfire of the Vanities**. Rise and fall of an ambitious young business man.
- 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***

- 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.
- Arundhati, Roy. **God of Small Things**. Set in India, a story of twins Estha and Rahel and the shocking consequences of the accidental drowning of a visiting English cousin.
- Austen, Jane. **Pride and Prejudice**. Love and marriage among the English country gentry of Austen's day.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Huxley, Aldous. **Brave New World**. A bitter satire of the future, in which the world is controlled by advances in science and social changes.

Kafka, Franz. **The Trial**. A man is tried for a crime he knows nothing about, yet for which he feels guilty.

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.

Pasternak, Boris. **Doctor Zhivago**. An epic novel of Russia before and after the Bolshevik revolution.

Remarque, Erich Maria. **All Quiet on the Western Front**. A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death. The first anti-war novel of the modern era, it is a must for history students.

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.

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.

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.

Wilde, Oscar. **The Portrait of Dorian Grey**. A portrait magically preserves the youth of the protagonist.

### ***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.

Curie, Eve. **Madame Curie**. In sharing personal papers and her own memories, a daughter pays tribute to her mother, a scientific genius.

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.

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.

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.

Nafisi, Azar. **Reading Lolita in Tehran.** A U.S.-educated literature professor holds weekly seminars secretly in her home in Tehran with a small group of women students to discuss books banned by the fundamentalist Iranian regime.

Plato. **The Republic.** Plato creates an ideal society where justice is equated with health and happiness in the state and the individual.

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.

Yolen, Jane. **Favorite Folktales From Around the World.** Yolen frames these powerful tales with explanations of historical and literary significance.

## *Science*

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.

Campbell, Joseph. **The Power of Myth.** Explores themes and symbols from world religions and their relevance to humankind's spiritual journey today.

Hamilton, Edith. **Mythology.** Gods and heroes, their clashes and adventures, come alive in this splendid retelling of the Greek, Roman and Norse myths.

## *Drama*

Beckett, Samuel. **Waiting for Godot.** Powerful, symbolic portrayal of the human condition.

Chekhov, Anton. **The Cherry Orchard.** The orchard evokes different meanings for the impoverished aristocrat and the merchant who buys it.

Marlowe, Christopher. **Doctor Faustus.** First dramatization of the medieval legend of a man who sold his soul to the devil.

O'Neill, Eugene. **Long Day's Journey Into Night.** A tragedy set in 1912 in the summer home of an isolated, theatrical family.

Sartre, Jean Paul. **No Exit.** A modern morality play in which three persons are condemned to hell because of crimes against humanity.

Shaw, Bernard. **Man and Superman, Saint Joan, Pygmalion,** others.

Sophocles. **Oedipus Rex.** Classical tragedy of Oedipus who unwittingly killed his father, married his mother and brought the plague to Thebes.

Wilde, Oscar. **The Importance of Being Earnest.** Comedy exposing quirks and foibles of Victorian society.

Wilder, Thornton. **Our Town.** The dead of a New Hampshire village of the early 1900s appreciate life more than the living.

Williams, Tennessee. **A Streetcar Named Desire.** Blanche Dubois' fantasies of refinement and grandeur are brutally destroyed by her brother-in-law.

Wilson, August. **The Piano Lesson.** Drama set in 1936 Pittsburgh chronicles black experience in America.

## *Poetry*

- Angelou, Maya. **And Still I Rise.** Poems reflecting themes from her autobiography
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. **Selected Poems.** Poetry focusing on the lives of African American residents of Northern urban ghettos, particularly women.
- Cummings, E.E. **Complete Poems, 1904-1962.** Prepared directly from the original manuscripts, preserving the original typography and format.
- Dickinson, Emily. **The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson.** A chronological arrangement of all known Dickinson poems and fragments.
- Donne, John. **The Complete Poetry of John Donne.** Poems distinguished by wit, profundity of thought, passion and subtlety.
- Eliot, T.S. **The Waste Land.** A poem of despair by one of the most important modern poets in English.
- Frost, Robert. **The Poetry of Robert Frost.** Collected works reflecting both flashing insight and practical wisdom.
- Ginsberg, Allen. **Howl and Other Poems.** Works from the leading poet of the so-called "beat generation."
- Giovanni, Nikki. **My House.** The poems in this collection deal with love, family, nature, friends, music, aloneness, blackness, and Africa.
- Hughes, Langston. **Selected Poems.** Poems selected by Hughes shortly before his death in 1967, representing work from his entire career.
- Keats, John. **Complete Poems.** Among the greatest odes in English, written by a genius who died young.
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. **The Poetical Works of Longfellow.** Includes "The Song of Hiawatha" and "The Courtship of Miles Standish."
- Sandburg, Carl. **Complete Poems.** Sandburg celebrates industrial and agricultural America and the common people.
- Thomas, Dylan. **Poems of Dylan Thomas.** Poetry by a "word magician" with a powerful imagination.
- Williams, William Carlos. **Selected Poems.** Williams' poetry is firmly rooted in the commonplace details of American life.
- Wordsworth, William. **Poems.** Poetry revealing the extraordinary beauty and significance of simple things.
- Yeats, William Butler. **The Poems.** Leading poet of the Irish Renaissance.