

# Core Reading List

## Grade 10

**All Quiet on the Western Front, the illustrated ed.**

**Remarque, Erich Maria**

Depicts the experiences of a group of young German soldiers fighting and suffering during the last days of the World War I

**Antigone**

**Sophocles**

King Creon of Thebes refuses to allow the burial of his nephew, whom he has declared a traitor and whose, sister, Antigone, is betrothed to Creon's son.

**Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress**

**Dai, Sijie**

Two boys move to the country for “re-education” as part of Mao’s Cultural Revolution, find little to amuse themselves, but things change when they discover a stash of Western classics in Chinese translation and use the stories of Balzac to capture the attention of the beautiful daughter

**Count of the Monte Cristo, The**

**Dumas, Alexandre**

After escaping from the island where he has been in prison, Dantes plots his revenge on the people responsible for his imprisonment

**Cry, the Beloved Country**

**Paton, Alan**

Accused of murdering a white man, a young black man in South Africa is helped by his minister father and by a white attorney, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice from being done

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**\*\*Cyrano de Bergerac**

**Rostand, Edmond**

Contains the text of the play about the swashbuckling Cyrano de Bergerac who secretly loves his cousin Roxanne but believes he is too ugly to ever win her affection--- Includes notes and a full introduction-

**Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, A**

**Durbach, Errol**

A play that examines the humanist implications in the revolution of an individual's spirit, moving the person to redefine and transform the self

**Euripides' Medea**

**Kennelly, Brendan**

Retells this classic Greek tale of betrayal and vengeance-- Medea, a sorceress, marries Jason after helping him steal the golden fleece- Later, he deserts her

**\*\*Gilgamesh**

The gods create Enkidu to be a double and friend for King Gilgamesh. When Enkidu dies, Gilgamesh journeys across the waters of death to speak with the usage Utnapishtim and he learns the secrets of the flood

**Illiad, The**

**Homer**

Homer's classic epic of the Trojan War and the struggle between Achilles and Hector that saves the Greeks and destroys the Trojans

**Julius Caesar**

**Shakespeare, William**

Brutus, best friend of the Roman ruler Caesar, reluctantly joins a successful plot to murder Caesar and subsequently destroys himself

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**Kaffir Boy**

**Mathabane, Mark**

Describes Mathabane's childhood in South Africa-- Some explicit language and sexual content

**Little Prince, The**

**Saint Exupery, Antoine de**

An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little man from a small planet who describes his adventures in the universe seeking the secret of what is really important in life

**Metamorphosis, The**

**Kafka, Franz**

A young man wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant beetle-like insect. He becomes an object of disgrace to his family and an alienated man

**My Forbidden Face**

**Latifa**

Latifa, a young woman who was 16 in 1996 when the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, tells about her family's experiences under the repressive regime, focusing on the lives of women and girls who were abruptly denied the freedom to work, go to school, or even leave their homes without a male escort

**Nectar in a Sieve: A novel**

**Markandaya, Kamala**

Tells of a simple peasant woman in a primitive village in India whose whole life was a gallant and persistent battle to care for those she loved

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**\*\*Night**

**Wiesel, Elie**

An autobiographical account of a Jewish boy with his family in a Nazi concentration camp

**Oedipus the King**

Sophocles' play of a king prophesied to kill his father and marry his mother is presented here in a translation designed to be used on stage

**Siddhartha**

**Hesse, Hermann**

A moral allegory, set in ancient India, about one soul's quest for the ultimate answer to the enigma of man's role in this world--The hero, Siddhartha, undergoes a series of experiences to emerge in a state of peace and wisdom

**Tartuffe**

**Moliere**

Satire of religious hypocrisy

**\*\*Things Fall Apart. Fawcett Crest ed.**

**Achebe, Chinua**

Set in an Ibo village in Nigeria, the novel recreates pre-Christian tribal life and shows how the coming of the white man led to the breaking up of the old ways

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**\*\*Recommendation**—Should be read by all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students

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# Supplementary Reading List 10<sup>th</sup> Grade



## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Level

### **Ake: The Years of Childhood**

**Soyinka, Wole**

This autobiography covers the first eleven years in the life of the Nigerian dramatist and poet

### **The Alchemist**

**Coelho, Paul**

Santiago, a young shepherd, has a dream that reveals the location of a buried treasure. This novel is about his search for the treasure and ultimately his true happiness.

### **Amores**

**Ovid**

Manual in verse on how to find and keep a lover; consists of three books – two for men and one for women, all written in humorous, satirical style

### **An Enemy of the People**

**Isben, Henrik**

A doctor discovers poison in a town's water supply and is ostracized by the townsmen

**Anna Karenin (a)**

**Tolstoy, Leo**

A fashionable woman abandons her husband, son, and social position for a lover. After a bitter experience, she finds rest from nineteenth-century Russian society by committing suicide

**Beneath the Wheel**

**Hesse, Hermann**

Conflicted and pessimistic narrative and inspired by his schooling and his work in a clock factory----Explores the theme of adolescent friendship as a prelude to heterosexual romantic love

**Bend in the River, A**

**Naipaul, V.S.**

After a recent civil war, a country in the interior of Africa is under a new President, whose insane energy and crudity have made his power felt everywhere, including an isolated village at a bend in the river

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**Black Rain**

**Ibuse, Masuji**

A novel about the day the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and how the lives of a Japanese businessman, his wife, and their niece changed

**Brothers Karamazov**

**Dostoyevsky, Fyodor**

The story of the lives of three sons of an old drunkard are used to depict Russian character and investigate the concepts of good, evil, and faith

**Candide**

**Voltaire**

The young man Candide is expelled from the castle of Thunder-twn-tronckh for making love to the Baron's daughter and embarks on a series of adventures

**Cherry Orchard, The**

**Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich**

Chekhov's last play, written in 1904, reflects the stirrings of the Russian people against despotism

**Dead Souls**

**Gogol', Nikolai Vasil'evich**

Comic masterpiece about Chichikov, a trafficker in souls (adult make serfs), who can still be of profit even when dead

**Decameron, The**

**Boccaccio, Giovanni**

Set against the background of the Black Death of 1348, one hundred linked tales capture the tragedies and comedies of life

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**Demian**

**Hesse, Hermann**

A young man rebels against convention, gets involved in the world of petty crime, and discovers his new powers for good and evil

**Don Quixote**

**Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de**

An idealistic country gentleman sets out like the knights of old to search for adventure and to right wrongs

**Electra**

**Sophocles**

Loyal to her father Agamemnon, Electra assists her brother in killing her mother Clytemnestia's lover

**Faust**

**Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von**

Man who desires complete knowledge, unlimited experience in life and self perfection is guided by Mephistopheles, the devil; he moves from one realm of human experience to another without ever attaining full satisfaction

**Ghosts**

**Isben, Henrik**

Tragedy of a woman who remains married to an unworthy man

**Haroun and the Sea of Stories**

**Rushdie, Salman**

Set in an exotic Eastern landscape peopled by magicians and fantastic talking animals, this novel inhabits the same imaginative space as *Gulliver's Travels*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. Haroun sets out on an adventure to restore the poisoned source of the sea of stories, and

encounters along the way many foes, all intent on draining the sea of all its storytelling powers.

**Hedda Gabler**

**Isben, Henrik**

A wealthy woman commits suicide because she can't achieve any of her desires

**Hunchback of Notre Dame, The**

**Hugo, Victor**

Relates the tragic life of the deformed Quasimodo and his hopeless love for the gypsy dancer Esmerelda

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**Idiot, The**

**Dostoyevsky, Fyodor**

Prince Myshkin finds himself at the center of a violent love triangle in which a notorious woman and a beautiful young girl become rivals for his affections. Extortion, scandal, and murder follow

**Inferno, The**

**Dante, Alighieri**

The story of man's way through the torment of hell in his search for Paradise

**Iphigenia**

**Euripidies**

Play about the sacrifice of Agamemnon's daughter

**Journey of the Center of the Earth**

**Verne, Jules**

Three men dare to adventure into a subterranean world full of danger and beauty. They discover many unusual things on their trip to the Earth's mysterious core

**The Kite Runner**

**Hosseini, Khaled**

Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and childhood friend, returns to Kabul after he learns Hassan has been killed. He wants to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery.

**Last Train, The**

**Lewis, Kim**

Sara and James imagine a puffing steam train rushing past their farm

**Les Miserables**

**Hugo, Victor**

In early nineteenth-century France, a reformed ex-criminal finds himself threatened by people and events of his past

**A Long Way Gone**

**Beah, Ishmael**

In his memoir, Beah shares his experience of living in Sierra Leone, a war-torn country. At 13 years of age, he was taken by the government army and turned into a child soldier. At 16, he was rescued by UNICEF.

**Magic Mountain**

**Mann, Thomas**

New translation of Mann's 1924 novel acclaimed as a masterly synthesis of the intellectual history of early twentieth-century Europe and its present scrutiny of elements in the German national character that had, and would again, find expression in the calamitous form of the World War

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**Man in the Iron Mask, The**

**Dumas, Alexandre**

Presents the adventures of d'Artagnan, who battles political intrigues in the service of King Louis XIV in seventeenth-century France

**Man of the People**

**Schebe, Chinua**

Portrays corruption in an unnamed post-independence African country, presumably Nigeria. The book ends with an army coup designed to oust the bribe-taking politicians

**Maus: A Survivor's Tale Volume 1: My Father Bleeds History**

**Art Spiegelman**

A graphic novel which uses visuals (Art Spiegelman is an artist), which Spiegelman uses to come to terms with the Holocaust. He has interviewed his father, a survivor, and set the story with cats as Nazis and mice as Jewish citizens.

**Misanthrope, The**

**Moliere**

Alceste is against duplicity and false flattery, but the woman he loves, Celimene, is the embodiment of all that he abhors, which makes this a comedy of manners

**Miser, The**

**Moliere**

This fast moving and humorous farce follows the exploits of greedy Harpagon as he tries to manipulate the lives of his two grown children and keep hold on all his money

**My Three Angels**

**Samuel, Spenack**

Comedy in three acts

**My Forbidden Face: Growing up Under the Taliban**

**Latifa in collaboration with Shékéba Hachemi**

Under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, 16-year-old Latifa became a prisoner in her own home. This is her testimony to the inhumanity taking place before her very eyes and expresses her hope for the day when women and citizens would be free.

**Mythology**

**Hamilton, Edith**

This book brings together the great stories from Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology that are the fountainhead of all literature.

**Myths and Their Meaning**

**Herzberg, Max J.**

The author explains the origins of myths and summarizes the stories of many of the great mythological characters

**One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich**

**Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr Isaevich**

Recounts the experience of Shukhov, a prisoner at a Soviet work camp in Siberia, as he struggles for survival

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**Orestes, and other plays. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1972**

**Euripides**

The children of Heracles – Andromache – The suppliant women – The Phoenician women – Orestes – Iphigenia in Aulis, Consists of three plays of Agamemnon, the Libation and the Eumenides-- In these plays, Aeschylus turned to violence after the return of King Agamemnon from Troy; it explores the power of reconciliation of human suffering with divine power

**Out of Africa**

**Dinesen, Isak**

The author describes her life on a coffee plantation in Kenya for seventeen years before returning to Denmark in 1931 to write

**Phantom of the Opera, The**

**Leroux, Gaston**

A hideous creature, called the Phantom of the Opera, with mysterious powers sought out the beautiful singer Christine Daae. If she resisted, a reign of terror and blood would begin

**Plague, The**

**Camus, Albert**

A coastal city in Algeria is struck by the bubonic plague and shut off from the world for months

**Prophet, The**

**Gibran, Kahlil**

Words of wisdom by Lebanese writer and poet that reveal his distinctive blending of Oriental and Occidental philosophies of life

**Purple Hibiscus**

**Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi**

Fifteen-year-old Kambili lives in a wealthy Nigerian home during the political unrest of the 1970s. As the book progresses, Kambili must face the changes happening to the Nigerian political scene around her and her evolving feelings for her abusive, controlling father.

**Republic, The**

**Plato**

A dialogue attempting to apply Plato's principles of philosophy to political affairs--- Covers his vision of an ideal state

**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan**

**See, Lisa**

Lily and her friend, Snow Flower, are a "laotong pair" and are also bound by their experience of foot binding. They exchange secret letters to one another using a fan and give the details about their lives to each other.

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**Shiva Accused: An adventure of the Ice Age**

**Brennan, J.H.**

As the major ceremony the Star Jamboree approaches, political rivals from another tribe falsely accuse the Shingu girl Shiva of murdering the Hag, leader of all the tribal witch women--Sequel to "Shiva"

**Sold**

**Patricia McCormick**

Lakshmi is a 13-year-old girl who lives with her family in Nepal. Due to desperate times, she is sold by her stepfather to a local brothel. The story is based on these events.

**Stranger, The**

**Camus, Albert**

Caught in the grip of forces he does not understand, a quiet, ordinary clerk in Algiers commits a murder

**Taste of Salt: A story of Modern Haiti**

**Temple, Frances**

In the hospital after being beaten by Macoutes, seventeen-year-old Djo tells the story of his impoverished life to a young woman who, like him, has been working with the social reformer Father Aristide to fight the repression in Haiti

**Tempest, The**

**Shakespeare, William**

Man wrongfully exiled lives on an island with his daughter; he has powers and creates a tempest to blow his enemies to him; daughter falls for a young prince; man forgives enemies

**A Thousand Splendid Suns**

**Hosseini, Khaled**

The relationship between Miriam and Laila is told against the backdrop of 3 decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban.

**Three Sisters**

**Chekhov, Anton**

Main characters dream of going to Moscow but by the end of the play no one has gone and it is clear no one ever will

**Trial, The**

**Kafka, Franz**

Joseph K. is suddenly arrested and must spend the rest of his life fighting a charge against him about which he can get no information

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**Waiting for the Rain**

**Gordon, Shelia**

Chronicles nine years in the lives of two South African youths – one black, one white – as their friendship ends in a violent confrontation between student and soldier

**Walkabout**

**Marshall, James**

Story of two white children from South Carolina who are stranded in the Australian wild after a plane crash-- They meet a primitive Aborigine boy who helps them survive

**Wide Sargasso Sea**

**Rhys, Jean**

Story of a young woman in the Caribbean whose family's past will be used against her by her cold-hearted and prideful husband, Rochester