

Core Reading List

Grade 11

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Twain, Mark

The adventures of a young boy traveling down the Mississippi River with an escaped slave

Awakening, The

Chopin, Kate

Tells of a woman's desire for an affair with the son of a Louisiana resort owner whom she meets on vacation

Beloved

Morrison, Toni

Seth, an escaped slave who now lives in post Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past

Bluest Eye, The

Morrison, Toni

An eleven-year-old African-American girl in Ohio, in the early 1940's, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful: she is raped by her father and goes insane

Ceremony

Silko, Leslie Marmon

Follows Tayo, a young American Indian half breed, after his release from a veteran's hospital following World War II as he searches for meaning and sanity in his life

Color of Water, The: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother

McBride, James

An African-American male tells of his mother, a white woman, who refused to admit her true identity

Color Purple, The

Walker, Alice

Tells the story of two sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie a child-wife living in the South- Through the medium of their letters, the narrative explores spousal abuse, Celie's love for Shug and a woman's search for self

****Crucible, The: A play in four acts**

Miller, Arthur

Classic play about the witch hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts, illuminating the destructive power of fear and suspicion in a community

Ellen Foster

Gibbons, Kaye

Having suffered abuse and misfortune for much of her life, a young child searches for a better life and finally gets a break in the home of a loving woman with several foster children

Ethan Frome

Wharton, Edith

The tragic story of Ethan Frome, a New England farmer married to a hypochondriac and in love with his wife's lively cousin, Mattie

Gathering of Old Men, A

Gaines, Ernest J.

Beau Boutan, a Cajun farmer, is found shot on a Louisiana plantation. The claimants to the killing form a wall of protection around the real murderer

2

Glass Menagerie, The

Williams, Tennessee

A play about a Southern woman who is anxious for her crippled daughter to be married

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Baldwin, James

Describes a day in the life of several members of a Harlem fundamentalist church-- The saga of three generations of people is related through flashbacks

Grapes of Wrath, The

Steinbeck, John

The saga of a family in 1939 that struggles through the Great Depression by laboring as Dust Bowl migrants

Great Gatsby, The
Fitzgerald, F. Scott

Follows the adventures of Jay Gatsby as he tries to win back the woman he loved and lost

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
Harriet Ann Jacobs

Presents the slave narrative of A. Jacobs, published in 1861 under the pseudonym Linda Brent, and includes commentary about the people and places discussed by the author, as well as photographs and a selection of letters

Invisible Man, The
Ellison, Ralph

Compelling story of an anonymous Black man who experiences a variety of adventures in the South and later in New York during a fervent quest for personal identity and social visibility

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Invisible Man, The
Wells, H. G.

The tale of a man who watches his body slowly becoming invisible

Joy Luck Club, The
Tan, Amy

In 1949 four Chinese women began meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong. They called their gathering the Joy Luck Club. Forty years later they look back and remember

Lesson Before Dying, A
Gaines, Ernest J.

The story of two young black men, one condemned to death for a murder and the other a teacher, who form a bond in a small Cajun Louisiana community in the late 1940's.

Like Water for Chocolate: a novel in monthly installments, with recipes, romances, and home remedies
Esquivel, Laura

A romantic and poignant tale of love and family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico—Includes recipes for dishes prepared in the novel, such as quail in rose petal sauce and chiles in walnut sauce

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: an American slave

Douglass, Frederick

An autobiographical account of a childhood and youth spent in slavery by a man who became a great abolitionist and leader of anti-slavery activity

Native Son

Wright, Richard

Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young Black man finds release only in acts of violence

4

Of Mice and Men

Steinbeck, John

Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California

Our Town

Wilder, Thornton

Life in Grover's Corner, New Hampshire, in the early 1900's through the routine daily events and the major moments in the lives of George Gibbs, Emily Webb, and their families; and how their lives, although mundane, are touched by the universal forces of love, despair, apathy, nature, and death

Scarlet Letter, The

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

In early colonial Massachusetts, a young woman endures the consequences of her sin of adultery and spends the rest of her life in atonement

Secret Life of Bees, The

Kidd, Sue Monk

Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August

Souls of Black Folk

Du Bois, W.E.B. (William Edward Burghardt)

Explores the African American experience in the United States in the years following the Emancipation Proclamation

Sula

Morrison, Toni

Sula Peace and Nel Wright share not only an intimate friendship, but an unspoken secret. Sula leaves Medallion, Ohio, for ten years; and when she dies three years after her return, Nel is her only mourner

5

****Their Eyes Were Watching God**

Hurston, Zora Neale

A black woman searches for a fulfilling relationship through two loveless marriages and finally finds it in the person of Tea Cake, an itinerant laborer and gambler

Walking Across Egypt

Edgerton, Clyde

Tells the story of a seventy-eight-year old independent widow who recognizes the loneliness in her life—until Wesley Benfield drops in

****Recommendation---**Should be read by all 11th grade students



Supplementary Reading List 11th Grade

11th Grade Level

Absalom, Absalom! New York: Random House, 1972, c1964

Faulkner, William

A Harvard freshman pieces together the strange story of a Southern tragedy involving an ambitious planter who settled in Mississippi in 1833

Accidental Tourist, The

Tyler, Anne

An author of guidebooks for traveling businessmen goes through life “accidentally.” It is tinged with purpose when he gets involved with the astonishing Muriel and her talent for finding adventure

After the First Death

Cormier, Robert

Events of the hijacking of a bus of children by terrorists seeking the return of their homeland are described from the perspectives of a hostage, a terrorist, an Army general involved in the rescue operation, and his son, chosen as the go-between

All the King's Men

Warren, Robert Penn

Willie Stark, a well-intentioned idealistic back-country lawyer, is unable to resist greed, power, and lust for politics during his rise and fall as an American demagogue

An American Tragedy

Dreiser, Theodore

The corruption of a young man becomes a portrait of the society that shaped his ambitious and destroyed him

7

American Dream, The and, The Zoo Story: two plays

Albee, Edward

Two works by American playwright Edward Albee – Zoo Story, about a fatal meeting between two strangers, and American Dream, an examination of the American scene and attack on the substitution for real values in society

Andromeda Strain, The

Crichton, Michael

For five days, American scientists struggle to identify and control a deadly new form of life

Another Country-- Laurel ed.

Baldwin, James

A small group of atypical Americans struggle, to avoid an aimless, defeated, and defensive bohemia. Rufus, a gifted black musician, Leona who loves him, his sister Ida, and her lover Viveldo depict the results of racism

As I Lay Dying

Faulkner, William

Describes a family's struggle to get their mother properly buried, while they encounter catastrophes of flood and fire, as well as the chaos of their own feelings

Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, The

Franklin, Benjamin

Life story of famous American inventor and politician

Babbitt

Lewis, Sinclair

George Babbitt is a middle class American living in an average Midwestern city, in this satire of middle class life

Ballad of the Sad Café

Carson McCullers

A story of a love triangle in a primitive Southern town produces brilliant revelations of love and longing

8

Bell Jar, The

Plath, Sylvia

Chronicles the mental breakdown of Esther Greenwood – brilliant, beautiful, talented and successful young woman

Billy Budd

Melville, Hermann

Narrates the hatred of petty officer Claggart for Billy, a handsome Spanish sailor--- Billy strikes and kills Claggart and is condemned by Captain Vere even though the latter senses Billy's spiritual innocence

Black Boy (American hunger): a record of childhood and youth

Wright, Richard

The autobiography of an African-American writer, recounting his early years and the harrowing experiences he encountered drifting from Natchez to Chicago to Brooklyn

Blood Done Signed My Name

Tyson, Timothy

Since Mr. Tyson's father was a Methodist minister who promoted desegregation and equal rights, Tyson saws first-hand how strong the resistance could be to the Civil Rights Movement. The book recounts violent clashes in Oxford, NC, where the elder Tyson was a minister, and gives historical background to racial conflicts in Wilmington to the history of racial inequality in our state and teach them about events which they haven't heard about, but which should be remembered and understood.

Bridge of San Luis Rey, The

Wilder, Thornton

In Peru in 1714, Franciscan Brother Juniper inquires into the lives of five travelers who died when a bridge collapsed, in an attempt to prove that this was not an accident but part of God's plan

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian history of the American West

Brown, Dee Alexander

Traces the white man's conquest of the Indians of the American West, emphasizing major Indian Wars

Bus Stop: A three-act romance

Inge, William.

A group of people stranded at a roadside diner outside Kansas City learn lessons about love, romance, and self-worth when they witness the developing relationship between Cherie, a nightclub singer, and a young, headstrong cowboy who is trying to spirit her away to Montana

9

Cane

Toomer, Jean

Attempts to bridge the gap between the rural black heritage and the new negro of the 1920's, creating an intermingling of black and white, rural and urban, primitive and civilized

Caine Mutiny, The

Wouk, Herman

A neurotic, despotic Navy captain loses command of his ship to his junior officers during World War II

Cannery Row

Steinbeck, John

Recounts the adventures and misadventures of cannery workers living in the run down waterfront section of Monterey, California

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Williams, Tennessee

Tells of the problems that beset a wealthy Southern family gathered together for a family celebration

Catch-22

Heller, Joseph.

Set on a tiny Mediterranean island during World War II, this comic novel recounts the amazing adventures of the 256th bombing squadron and its lead bombardier, Captain Yossarian

Catcher in the Rye, The

Salinger, J.D.

Story of an alienated, disillusioned youth who drops out of school and spends three days and nights in New York on a quest for self-discovery

10

Child Buyer, The

Hersey, John

A novel in the form of hearings before the Standing Committee on Education, Welfare & Public Morality of a certain State Senate, investigating the conspiracy of Mr. Wissey Jones and others to purchase a male child

Civil Disobedience and Walden

Thoreau, Henry David

Contains Thoreau's philosophy of life and observations of nature he wrote while spending two years in a cabin on Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts

Coffee Will Make You Black

Sinclair, April

The story of an African-American woman growing up on the south side of Chicago in the turbulent 60s as she tests the limits of racism and refuses to accept the fact that just because she is black she is inferior.

Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, A

Twain, Mark

The Connecticut Yankee, a nineteenth-century mechanic, suffers a blow to the head and wakes up in King Arthur's Britain

Cry in the Night

Clark, Mary Higgins

Jenny's only hope for happiness lies in unraveling the truth about the past, a truth that is hidden in the great house which has become her prison

Death of a Salesman

Miller, Arthur

The Pulitzer Prize-winning play centering on the despair of a traveling salesman who is forced to face the reality he has evaded all his life

11

Deathwatch (1st ed.) Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1972

White, Robb

Needing money for school, a college boy accepts a job as a guide on a desert hunting trip and nearly loses his life

Deerslayer, The

Cooper, James Fenimore

Relates the adventure of woodsman Natty Bumppo in upper New York State at the time of the Iroquois wars

Elephant Man, The

Howell, Michael

Follows the life of Joseph Merrick, called the Elephant Man because of a deformity from his early years as a sideshow attraction to his death in a London hospital in 1890

Farewell to Arms, A

Hemingway, Ernest

An American ambulance driver serving on the Austro-Italian front becomes entangled with an English nurse and deserts to join her after the retreat of Caparetto

Ferris Beach: A novel

McCorkle, Jill

Kate, a young Southern girl in the 1970's, is caught in a tug-of-war between a prim and sensitive mother and a beautiful and reckless cousin

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Hemingway, Ernest

First published in 1940, this is the story of an American, Robert Jordan, and his battles during the Civil War in Spain with the antifascist guerrillas in the mountains of Spain

Frederick Douglass

Douglass, Frederick

A selection of Frederick Douglass's speeches and writings on the topic of slavery, injustice, inequality, and racism

12

Gather Together in My Name

Angelou, Maya

Continues Angelou's autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings---- As the book begins, she is in her teens and has given birth to son

Glass Castle

Walls, Jeannette

This memoir focuses on a writer's journey through a childhood of hardships to become successful.

Gone with the Wind

Mitchell, Margaret

After the Civil War sweeps away the genteel life to which she has been accustomed, Scarlett O'Hara sets about to salvage her Georgia plantation home

Hangman's Beautiful Daughter, The

McCrumb, Sharyn

Laura Bruce, wife of a minister in Appalachia, experiences dangers after she is asked by the sheriff to help tend the survivors from a scene of carnage at a farm

Hawaii

Michener, James A

Traces the racial origins of Hawaii--- The original Tahitian colonizers welcome the white missionaries who bring in Chinese and Japanese laborers

Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, The

McCullers Carson

A deaf mute who has lost his only friend to a hospital for the insane becomes the recipient of the confidences of several other town residents

Her Own Place

Sanders, Dori

The story of Mae Lee, a black woman in South Carolina, who is in succession a war bride, abandoned wife, proud mother, dutiful daughter, and a successful farmer

Hiroshima**Hersey, John**

The account of six people who survived the dropping of the first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945

House of Seven Gables, The**Hawthorne, Nathaniel**

Story of a curse placed on the house of Pyncheon by Matthew Maule, a victim of the Salem witchcraft trials--- Deals with the effect of the curse on people and their final reconciliation to their past

Hunt for Red October, The**Clancy, Tom**

The Soviets' new ballistic-missile submarine is attempting to defect to the United States, but the Soviet Atlantic fleet has been ordered to find and destroy her at all costs-- Can Red October reach the U.S. safely?

I am One of You Forever**Chappell, Fred**

Set during the 1940's in western North Carolina, this novel is a wonderful combination of pathos and humor, fantasy and reality. It's made up of a series of stories about the protagonist's strange relatives. The narrator has to decide: Do I really belong to this crowd of crazies?

J.B.: A play in verse**MacLeish, Archibald**

Uses the biblical figure of Job as an illustration of the suffering and injustice of the twentieth century

Jazz Random House, 1992**Morrison, Toni**

A mysterious voice weaves the story of an African-American door-to-door salesman of beauty products who shoots his young lover---His wife tries to disfigure the corpse with a knife in the winter of 1926

Johnny Got His Gun**Trumbo, Dalton**

A young man who was wounded in World War I thinks about his life and about the horror and futility of war and its toll on him

Jubilee

Walker, Margaret

Relates the fortunes of a mulatto girl as a slave during the Civil War and then as a woman freed by the Emancipation Proclamation

Jungle, The

Sinclair, Upton

Describes the conditions of the Chicago stockyards through the eyes of a young immigrant in America

Last of the Mohicans, The

Cooper, James Fenimore

The tale of a Mohican brave's struggle to protect two English girls from an evil Huron

Learning Tree, The

Parks, Gordon

A black youth in a small town in Kansas finds himself the only witness to a murder

Legend of Sleepy Hollow, The

Irving, Washington

Ichabod Crane encounters a headless horseman

Lost Colony, The

Lacy, Dan Mabry

Traces the events leading to the settling of the first English colony in America and speculates on the reasons for its disappearance

Love Story

Segal, Erich

Tragedy strikes the lives of a young married couple from vastly different backgrounds

15

Main Street

Lewis, Sinclair

Describes the lonely predicament of Carol Kennicott, who is caught between her desires for social reform and individual happiness--- Her dilemma is intensified by the fact that she lives in a small, self-satisfied, Midwestern town

Makes Me Wanna Holler

McCall, Nathan

Washington Post reporter Nathan McCall recounts the story of his journey from troubled youth to professional journalist, providing insight into what it's like to be a black man in America

Malcolm X

X, Malcolm

Presents excerpts from speeches by Malcolm X and selections from "The Autobiography of Malcolm X"

Mama

McMillan, Terry

Mildred Peacock, mother of five, black, and fed up with poverty and the jealous rampages of her husband, kicks him out to raise her kids on her own

Member of the Wedding, The

McCullers, Carson

Twelve-year-old Frankie is utterly bored until she hears about her brother's wedding-- He returns from Alaska to his Georgia, and Frankie decides she will go, uninvited, on the honeymoon

Middle Passage

Johnson, Charles Richard

In 1830, Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave leading a dissolute life in New Orleans, finds himself forced into marriage

16

Moby Dick

Melville, Herman

A young seaman joins the crew of the whaling ship Pequod, led by the fanatical Captain Ahab, in pursuit of the white whale Moby Dick

Mutiny of the Bounty

Nordhoff, Charles

Based on the famous mutiny carried out by the crew of the "Bounty," a British war vessel, in 1787

My Antonia

Cather, Willa

A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl

Natural, The

Malamud, Bernard

Now an American baseball hero and a winner after a dark period, Roy finds the woman he thought he had lost-- But he is up against corrupters, seducers and glory destroyers-- Now he has to win the toughest game of his life

Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America

Ehrenreich, Barbara

The author relates her experiences from 1998-2000 during which time she joined the ranks of the working poor as a waitress, hotel housekeeper, etc. to see how America's "unskilled" workers survive on \$6-7/hour.

Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, The: A play

Lawrence, Jerome

A play dramatizing the philosopher, Henry David Thoreau, and his stand concerning civil disobedience-- He refused to pay taxes due to his disapproval of the Mexican War-- For his act of protest he was sent to jail

Prince and the Pauper, The

Twain, Mark

A prince leaves a look-alike in his place and has an unexpected adventure

Pudd'nhead Wilson

Twain, Mark

On the same day in 1830, two boys are born, one the son of a prosperous landowner, the other the son of his mulatto slave girl-- To help advance her child, the slave girl arranges to substitute him for the other boy-- Then the trouble starts

17

O'Pioneers!

Cather, Willa

Alexandra, daughter of a Swedish immigrant farmer in Nebraska, inherits the family farm and finds love with an old friend

Of Human Bondage

Maugham, W. Somerset

Philip Carvey, a handicapped orphan, is brought up by a self-indulgent Victorian clergyman--- Shedding his religious faith as a young

man, he begins to study art in Paris, but finally returns to London to qualify as a doctor

Oliver's Story

Segal, Enrich

A sequel to "Love Story", in which Oliver attempts to come to terms with his grief and guilt about the death of his wife

On Golden Pond: A play

Thompson, Ernest

Describes the experiences of Norman and Ethel Thayer, who have been married forty-eight years; their daughter Chelsea, divorced and recently taken up with another man; and his young son Billy, who is very much alone, as they spend the summer together

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Kesey, Ken

The struggle for power between a head nurse and a male patient in a mental institution leads to a climax of hate, violence, and death

18

Ordinary People

Guest, Judith

After spending eight months in a mental institution following a suicide attempt, seventeen-year-old Conrad returns home and finds that he must rebuild his life

Piano Lesson, The

Wilson, August

"Winner of the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for Drama"-- One black American family struggles with the question of selling a prized emblem of their past, an ornate piano, in order to buy a tract of land

Red Prophet

Card, Orson Scott

Sequel to Seventh Son--- Alvin Miller, the seventh son of a seventh son, continues to work his extraordinary talents and magic in the rough frontier of America

Robber Bridegroom, The

Welty, Eudora

The story of a planter's ravishing daughter, Rosamond, and her bandit lover

Roots

Haley, Alex

A black American traces his family's origins back to the African who was brought to America as a slave in 1767

Sacred Clowns

Hillerman, Tony

Navajo Tribal Policemen Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee attempt to unravel a web of tribal politics and murder

Sandbox, The

Albee, Edward

One-act play based on Albee's adoptive parents; excellent example of the Theater of the Absurd

19

Selections from Thoreau.

Chapters from Walden depicting the Transcendentalist's attitude about appreciating the simplicity of life and the essay "Civil Disobedience" are explored.

Seventeenth Summer

Daly, Maureen

Seventeen-year-old Angie finds herself in love for the first time the summer after high school graduation

Seventh Son

Card, Orson Scott

In an alternate frontier America, Alvin the seventh son of a seventh son is born--Such a boy is destined to become something great, perhaps even a maker

Sister Carrie

Dreiser, Theodore

The story of a young woman from Wisconsin who goes to Chicago becomes an actress, marries and moves to New York, and when her husband loses his job, returns to the stage

Song of Solomon

Morrison, Toni

Follows the life of Macon Dead, Jr., the son of the richest black family in a Midwestern town, as he leaves home on a quest for personal freedom

Sun Also Rises, The

Hemingway, Ernest

Focuses on a "lost generation" of Americans who fought in France during World War I and who expatriated themselves from America after the war

Tender is the Night

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

The tragic and haunting story of Dick Diver, a young psychiatrist whose career is thwarted and his genius numbed through marriage to the exquisite and wealthy Nicole Warren

20

Theory of War

Brady, Joan

Story of Jonathan Carrick, a white man who was sold into slavery at the age of four to a Kansas tobacco farmer just after the Civil War

Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A

Smith, Betty

Because of her love of reading and the strength of character she has inherited from her mother, a girl is able to achieve self-reliance and financial independence

True North

Lasky, Kathryn

Because of the strong influence which her grandfather, an abolitionist, has in her life, fourteen-year-old Lucy assists a fugitive slave girl in her escape

Turn of the Screw, The

James, Henry

Two children are haunted by the evil spirits of two former servants

Ugly Ways

Ansa, Tina McElroy

The three Lovejoy sisters are reunited in their hometown of Mulberry, Georgia, when the mother dies; and they vow to bury years of anger and pain along with their hateful parent

21

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

A novel of the pre-Civil War South indicting slavery and exposing the attitudes of white nineteenth-century society

Up the Down Staircase

Kaufman, Bel

Describes what goes on in a large metropolitan high school in the 1960's when a dedicated teacher's ideas run against the educational bureaucracy

Virginian, The: A Horseman of the Plains

Wister, Owen

The story of a soft-spoken cowboy who lived and worked in Wyoming in the late 1800's

War and Remembrance: A novel

Wouk, Herman

Sequel to The Winds of War-- In a historical romance the Henry family experiences the war years, 1941-1945

Winesburg, Ohio

Anderson, Sherwood

A unified collection of short stories about life in a small town in the American Midwest

Woman Warrior, The: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts

Kingston, Maxine Hong

A memoir of the American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants who lived within the traditions and fears of the Chinese past as well as the realities of the alien modern American culture

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

Pirsig, Robert M

During the motorcycle trip with his son, the author reveals his past life and muses on philosophical topics