



## College Bound

### Recommended Reading

#### American Literature

Adams, Richard

**Watership Down**

*-A heroic fantasy about a small group of rabbits*

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.*

Bellow, Saul

**Seize the Day**

*-A son grapples with his love and hate for an unworthy father.*

Bradbury, Ray

**Fahrenheit 451, Martian Chronicles**

*-Reading is a crime and firemen burn books in this futuristic society.*

Buck, Pearl

**The Good Earth**

*- Describes Chinese culture in detail and prepared Americans of the 1930s to consider Chinese as allies in the coming war with Japan.*

Cather, Willa

**My Antonia**

*-Immigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies.*

Campbell, Joseph

**The Power of Myth**

*-In these discussions, Campbell presents his ideas about comparative mythology and the ongoing role of myth in human society*

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.*

Cooper, James Fenimore

**The Last of the Mohicans**

*-Three trappers protect a British Colonel's daughters in the midst of the French and Indian War.*

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.*

Douglas, Frederick

**The Life of Frederick Douglas**

*- Douglass is one of the most prominent figures in African-American history and United States history.*

Dreiser, Theodore

**An American Tragedy,**

*-The book is the story of a young man, Clyde Griffiths, whose troubles with women and the law take him from his religious upbringing in Kansas City to the fictional town of Lycurgus, New York.*

**Sister Carrie**

*-A young country girl who moves to the big city where she starts realizing her own American Dream by first becoming a mistress to men that she perceives as superior and later as a famous actress.*

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 Sound and the Fury**

*-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.*

Golding, William

**Lord of the Flies**

*-Discusses how culture created by man fails, using as an example a group of British school-boys stuck on a deserted island who try to govern themselves with disastrous results.*

Hansberry, Lorraine

**A Raisin in the Sun**

*- The story is based upon a family's own experiences growing up in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.*

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

**The House of the Seven Gables**

*-The House of the Seven Gables is a gloomy New England mansion, haunted from its foundation by fraudulent dealings, accusations of witchcraft, and sudden death.*

**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.*

**Old Man and the Sea**

*-Centers upon Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who struggles with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream*

**For Whom the Bell Tolls**

*- tells the story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an anti-fascist guerilla unit in the mountains during the Spanish Civil War.*

Hurston, Zora Neale**Their Eyes Were Watching God**

*-Janie repudiates many roles in her quest for self-fulfillment.*

James, Henry**The Turn of the Screw**

*- An unnamed narrator listens to a male friend reading a manuscript written by a former governess whom the latter claims to have known and who is now dead*

Kervavac, Jack**On the Road**

*-A largely autobiographical work that was written as a stream of consciousness creation—based on the spontaneous road trips of Kerouac and his friends across mid-century America*

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.*

Lawrence, Jerome**Inherit the Wind**

*- A fictionalized account of the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial, which resulted in John T. Scopes' conviction for teaching Charles Darwin's theory of evolution to a high school science class, contrary to a Tennessee state law that proscribed the teaching of anything besides creationism.*

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.*

Mah, Adeline

**Chinese Cinderella: the True Story of an Unwanted Daughter**

*- A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s.*

Melville, Herman

**Moby-Dick**

*-A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale.*

Miller, Arthur

**The Crucible**

*-A play written in the early 1950s during the time of McCarthyism, when the government blacklisted accused communists*

Miller, Arthur

**Death of a Salesman**

*- A classic of American theater, Miller illustrated the downfall of a great man, whether through a flaw in his character or a mistake he has squandered.*

Morrison, Toni

**Beloved**

*The lifelong friendship of two women becomes strained when one causes the other's husband to abandon her.*

Orwell, George

**1984, Animal Farm**

*-An allegory in which animals play the roles of the Bolshevik revolutionaries and overthrow and oust the human owners of the farm, setting it up as a commune in which, at first, all animals are equal; class and status disparities soon emerge, however, between the different animal species*

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.*

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.*

**Of Mice and Men**

*-The tragic story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant ranch workers in Great Depression-era California.*

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

**Uncle Tom's Cabin**

*-The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system.*

Twain, Mark

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**

*-Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom.*

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**

*-A novel about a young boy growing up in the antebellum South on the Mississippi River in the fictional town of St. Petersburg, Missouri*

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.*

Wharton, Edith

**The Age of Innocence**

*-Centers on one society couple's impending marriage and the introduction of a scandalized woman whose presence threatens their happiness.*

Wilder, Thornton

**Our Town: A Play in Three Acts**

*-Change comes slowly to a small New Hampshire town in the early 20th century.*

Williams, Tennessee

**A Streetcar Named Desire**

*-Deals with a culture clash between two symbolic characters, Blanche DuBois, a pretentious, fading relic of the Old South, and Stanley Kowalski, a rising member of the industrial, urban immigrant class.*

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

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.*

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.*

Defoe, Daniel

## **Robinson Crusoe**

*-The adventures of a man who spends 24 years on an isolated island.*

Dickens, Charles

## **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**

*-The novel was left unfinished at the time of Dickens' death, and readers have often speculated how it might have ended.*

## **Tale of Two Cities**

*-The plot centers on the years leading up to the French Revolution and culminates in the Jacobin Reign of Terror.*

Dinesen, Isak

## **Out of Africa**

*-Recounts events of the seventeen years when Blixen made her home in Kenya, then British East Africa.*

Dostoevski, Feodor

## **Crime and Punishment**

*-A psychological novel about a poor student who murders an old woman pawnbroker and her sister.*

Dumas, Alexandre

## **The Three Musketeers**



*-Recounts the adventures of a young man named d'Artagnan after he leaves home to become a musketeer.*

Eliot, George

**The Mill on the Floss**

*Maggie is miserable because her brother disapproves of her choices of romances.*

Flaubert, Gustave

**Madame Bovary**

*-In her extramarital affairs, a bored young wife seeks unsuccessfully to find the emotional experiences she craves.*

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.*

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.*

Homer

**The Iliad**

*- The poem concerns events during the tenth and final year in the siege of the city of Ilium, or Troy, by the Greeks*

**The Odyssey**

*-The illustrated wanderings of the hero Odysseus after the Trojan War. Based on Homer's epic from Greek Mythology*

Hugo, Victor

**Les Miserables**

*-Follows the lives and interactions of several French characters over a twenty year period in the early 19th century that includes the Napoleonic wars and subsequent decades*

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.*

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.*

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.*

Wilder, Thornton

**Bridge of San Luis Rey: A Novel**

*-Tells the story of several interrelated people who die in the collapse of an Inca rope-fiber suspension bridge in Peru, and the events that lead up to their being on the bridge.*

Non-Fiction

Ambrose, Stephen

**Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West**

*-A fantastic introduction to the Lewis and Clark expedition of the Louisiana Purchase and to the Pacific Ocean from 1803 to 1806.*

**D-Day, June 6, 1944: the Climatic Battle**

*-A definitive book on the events of D-Day: June 6, 1944.*

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.*

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.*

Brown, Dee

**Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**

*-A narrative of the white man's conquest of the American land as the Indian*

Campbell, Joseph

**The Power of Myth**

*-Explores themes and symbols from world religions and their relevance to humankind's spiritual journey today. victims experienced it.*

Carson, Rachel

**Silent Spring**

*-Carson's original clarion call to environmental action sets the stage for saving our planet.*

Cooke, Alistair

**Alistair Cooke's America**

*-A history of the continent, with anecdotes and insight into what makes America work.*

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.*

Darwin, Charles

**The Origin of Species**

*-The classic exposition of the theory of evolution by natural selection.*

Elliot, T.S.

**The Wasteland**

*-A highly influential 434-line modernist poem that shifts between satire and prophecy*

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.*

Hamilton, Edith

**Mythology**

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

Hersey, John

**Hiroshima**

*-Six Hiroshima survivors reflect on the aftermath of the first atomic bomb.*

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.*

Hughes, Langston

**Selected Poems of Langston Hughes.**

*-An American poet, novelist, playwright, short story writer, and columnist.*

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.*

Leopold, Aldo

**A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There**

*-Leopold shares his present and future visions of a natural world.*

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.*

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.*

Plato

**The Republic**

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

Roberts, Cokie

**Founding Mothers: the women who raised our nation**

*- Stories of the women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men, sometimes even defending their very doorsteps from British occupation.*

**Ladies of Liberty: the women who shaped our world**

*-An intimate look at the known and unknown histories of some of the women who have shaped the nation.*

Rogosin, Donn

**Invisible Men: Life in Baseball's Negro Leagues**

*-Negro League players finally gain recognition for their contributions to baseball.*

Sandburg, Carl

**Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg**

*-One of America's most celebrated poets during his lifetime, Sandburg developed a unique and controversial form of free verse that captured the rhythms and color of Midwestern English vernacular.*

Shakespeare, William

**Plays and Sonnets**

*-An English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.*

Thoreau, Henry David

**Walden**

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

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*