

English 12 Reading List

- This is **the** master list.
- You are required to select four (4) novels **from this list**.
- If a novel does not have an associated A/R test, select another that does.

A List of 25* Most Often Taught Literary Works

Source: http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/5624420/recommended_high_school_reading_list.html?cat=4

Hamlet by William Shakespeare (Drama, British)

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (Novel, British)

Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Novel, British)

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (Novel, British)

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer (Poetry, British)

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw (Drama, British)

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad (Novel, British)

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy (Novel, British)

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (Novel, British)

Animal Farm by George Orwell (Novel, British)

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (Novel, British)

1984 by George Orwell (Novel, British)

The Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy (Novel, British)

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens (Novel, British)

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (Drama, British)

Othello by William Shakespeare (Drama, British)

Not interesting enough? Check this out:

The 100* greatest novels of all time

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2003/oct/12/features.fiction>

1. Don Quixote Miguel De Cervantes

The story of the gentle knight and his servant Sancho Panza has entranced readers for centuries.

2. Pilgrim's Progress John Bunyan

The one with the Slough of Despond and Vanity Fair.

3. Robinson Crusoe Daniel Defoe

The *first* English novel.

4. Gulliver's Travels Jonathan Swift

A wonderful satire that still works for all ages, despite the savagery of Swift's vision.

5. Tom Jones Henry Fielding

The adventures of a high-spirited orphan boy: an unbeatable plot ending in a blissful marriage.

6. Clarissa Samuel Richardson

One of the longest novels in the English language, but *unputdownable*.

7. Tristram Shandy Laurence Sterne

One of the first bestsellers, dismissed by Dr Johnson as too fashionable for its own good.

8. Dangerous Liaisons Pierre Choderlos De Laclos

An epistolary novel: foppish, French, and ferocious.

9. Emma Jane Austen

Near impossible choice between this and *Pride and Prejudice*. But Emma never fails to fascinate and annoy.

10. Frankenstein Mary Shelley

Inspired by spending too much time with Shelley and Byron.

11. Nightmare Abbey Thomas Love Peacock

A classic miniature: a brilliant satire on the Romantic novel.

12. The Black Sheep Honore De Balzac

Two rivals fight for the love of a femme fatale. Wrongly overlooked.

13. The Charterhouse of Parma Stendhal

Penetrating and compelling chronicle of life in an Italian court in post-Napoleonic France.

14. The Count of Monte Cristo Alexandre Dumas

A revenge thriller also set in France after Bonaparte: a masterpiece of adventure writing.

15. Sybil Benjamin Disraeli

Apart from Churchill, no other British political figure shows literary genius.

16. David Copperfield Charles Dickens

This highly autobiographical novel is the one its author liked best.

17. Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte

Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff have passed into the language. Impossible to ignore.

18. Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte

Obsessive emotional grip and haunting narrative.

19. Vanity Fair William Makepeace Thackeray

The improving tale of Becky Sharp.

20. The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne

A classic investigation of the American mind.

21. Moby-Dick Herman Melville

'Call me Ishmael' is one of the most famous opening sentences of any novel.

22. Madame Bovary Gustave Flaubert

You could summarize this as a story of adultery in provincial France, and miss the point entirely.

23. The Woman in White Wilkie Collins

Gripping mystery novel of concealed identity, abduction, fraud and mental cruelty.

24. Alice's Adventures In Wonderland Lewis Carroll

A story written for the nine-year-old daughter of an Oxford don that still baffles most kids.

25. Little Women Louisa M. Alcott

Victorian bestseller about a New England family of girls.

26. The Way We Live Now Anthony Trollope

A majestic assault on the corruption of late Victorian England.

27. Anna Karenina Leo Tolstoy

The supreme novel of the married woman's passion for a younger man.

28. Daniel Deronda George Eliot

A passion and grandeur that is strange and unsettling.

29. The Brothers Karamazov Fyodor Dostoevsky

Mystical tragedy by the author of Crime and Punishment.

30. The Portrait of a Lady Henry James

The story of Isabel Archer shows James at his witty and polished best.

31. Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain

Twain was a humorist, but this picture of Mississippi life is profoundly moral and still incredibly influential.

32. Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Robert Louis Stevenson

A brilliantly suggestive, resonant study of human duality by a natural storyteller.

33. Three Men in a Boat Jerome K. Jerome

One of the funniest English books ever written.

34. The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde

A coded and epigrammatic melodrama.

35. The Diary of a Nobody George Grossmith

This classic of Victorian suburbia will always be renowned for the character of Mr Pooter.

36. Jude the Obscure Thomas Hardy

Its savage bleakness makes it one of the first twentieth-century novels.

37. The Riddle of the Sands Erskine Childers

A prewar invasion-scare spy thriller by a writer later shot for his part in the Irish republican rising.

38. The Call of the Wild Jack London

The story of a dog who joins a pack of wolves after his master's death.

39. Nostromo Joseph Conrad

Conrad's masterpiece: a tale of money, love and revolutionary politics.

40. The Wind in the Willows Kenneth Grahame

This children's classic was inspired by bedtime stories for Grahame's son.

41. In Search of Lost Time Marcel Proust

An unforgettable portrait of Paris in the belle époque.

42. The Rainbow D. H. Lawrence

Novels seized by the police, like this one, have a special afterlife.

43. The Good Soldier Ford Madox Ford

This account of the adulterous lives of two Edwardian couples is a classic of unreliable narration.

44. The Thirty-Nine Steps John Buchan

A classic adventure story for boys, jammed with action, violence and suspense.

45. Ulysses James Joyce

Also pursued by the British police, this is a novel more discussed than read.

46. Mrs Dalloway Virginia Woolf

Secures Woolf's position as one of the great twentieth-century English novelists.

47. A Passage to India E. M. Forster

The great novel of the British Raj, it remains a brilliant study of empire.

48. The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald

The quintessential Jazz Age novel.

49. The Trial Franz Kafka

The enigmatic story of Joseph K.

50. Men Without Women Ernest Hemingway

He is remembered for his novels, but it was the short stories that first attracted notice.

- 51. Journey to the End of the Night** Louis-Ferdinand Celine
The experiences of an unattractive slum doctor during the Great War: a masterpiece of linguistic innovation.
- 52. As I Lay Dying** William Faulkner
A strange black comedy by an American master.
- 53. Brave New World** Aldous Huxley
Dystopian fantasy about the world of the seventh century AF (after Ford).
- 54. Scoop** Evelyn Waugh
The supreme Fleet Street novel.
- 55. USA** John Dos Passos
An extraordinary trilogy that uses a variety of narrative devices to express the story of America.
- 56. The Big Sleep** Raymond Chandler
Introducing Philip Marlowe: cool, sharp, handsome - and bitterly alone.
- 57. The Pursuit Of Love** Nancy Mitford
An exquisite comedy of manners with countless fans.
- 58. The Plague** Albert Camus
A mysterious plague sweeps through the Algerian town of Oran.
- 59. Nineteen Eighty-Four** George Orwell
This tale of one man's struggle against totalitarianism has been appropriated the world over.
- 60. Malone Dies** Samuel Beckett
Part of a trilogy of astonishing monologues in the black comic voice of the author of *Waiting for Godot*.
- 62. Wise Blood** Flannery O'Connor
A disturbing novel of religious extremism set in the Deep South.
- 63. Charlotte's Web** E. B. White
How Wilbur the pig was saved by the literary genius of a friendly spider.
- 64. The Lord Of The Rings** J. R. R. Tolkien
Enough said!
- 65. Lucky Jim** Kingsley Amis
An astonishing debut: the painfully funny English novel of the Fifties.
- 67. The Quiet American** Graham Greene
Prophetic novel set in 1950s Vietnam.
- 68 On the Road** Jack Kerouac
The Beat Generation bible.
- 70. The Tin Drum** Gunter Grass
Hugely influential, Rabelaisian novel of Hitler's Germany.

71. Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe

Nigeria at the beginning of colonialism. A classic of African literature.

72. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie Muriel Spark

A writer who made her debut in The Observer - and her prose is like cut glass.

74. Catch-22 Joseph Heller

'[He] would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn't, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; if he didn't want to he was sane and had to.'

75. Herzog Saul Bellow

Adultery and nervous breakdown in Chicago.

76. One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A postmodern masterpiece.

77. Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont Elizabeth Taylor

A haunting, understated study of old age.

78. Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy John Le Carre

A thrilling elegy for post-imperial Britain.

79. Song of Solomon Toni Morrison

The definitive novelist of the African-American experience.

80. The Bottle Factory Outing Beryl Bainbridge

Macabre comedy of provincial life.

81. The Executioner's Song Norman Mailer

This quasi-documentary account of the life and death of Gary Gilmore is possibly his masterpiece.

82. If on a Winter's Night a Traveller Italo Calvino

A strange, compelling story about the pleasures of reading.

83. A Bend in the River V. S. Naipaul

The finest living writer of English prose. This is his masterpiece: edgily reminiscent of Heart of Darkness.

84. Waiting for the Barbarians J.M. Coetzee

Bleak but haunting allegory of apartheid by the Nobel prizewinner.

85. Housekeeping Marilynne Robinson

Haunting, poetic story, drowned in water and light, about three generations of women.

86. Lanark Alasdair Gray

Seething vision of Glasgow. A Scottish classic.

87. The New York Trilogy Paul Auster

Dazzling metaphysical thriller set in the Manhattan of the 1970s.

88. The BFG Roald Dahl

A bestseller by the most popular postwar writer for children of all ages.

89. The Periodic Table Primo Levi

A prose poem about the delights of chemistry.

90. Money Martin Amis

The novel that bags Amis's place on any list.

91. An Artist of the Floating World Kazuo Ishiguro

A collaborator from prewar Japan reluctantly discloses his betrayal of friends and family.

92. Oscar And Lucinda Peter Carey

A great contemporary love story set in nineteenth-century Australia by double Booker prizewinner.

93. The Book of Laughter and Forgetting Milan Kundera

Inspired by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, this is a magical fusion of history, autobiography and ideas.

94. Haroun and the Sea of Stories Salman Rushdie

In this entrancing story Rushdie plays with the idea of narrative itself.

96. Wise Children Angela Carter

A theatrical extravaganza by a brilliant exponent of magic realism.

97. Atonement Ian McEwan

Acclaimed short-story writer achieves a contemporary classic of mesmerising narrative conviction.

98. Northern Lights Philip Pullman

Lyra's quest weaves fantasy, horror and the play of ideas into a truly great contemporary children's book.

99. American Pastoral Philip Roth

For years, Roth was famous for Portnoy's Complaint . Recently, he has enjoyed an extraordinary revival.

100. Austerlitz W. G. Sebald

Posthumously published volume in a sequence of dream-like fictions spun from memory, photographs and the German past.