

# Independent Reading List

AFR = African; AUS = Australian; BR = British; CAN = Canadian; CAR = Caribbean;  
 FR = French; GER = German; GK = Greek; IND = Indian; IT = Italian; LA = Latin American; NOR = Norwegian; POL =  
 Polish; ROM = Romanian; RUS = Russian; SP = Spanish; SUM = Sumerian; US = American  
 Difficulty ratings: M=Middle School, 1=easy, 2=moderate, 3=challenging, 4=very difficult

The following list is not complete; please make suggestions of authors and titles that you think should be added. The comments offer only the roughest idea of what to expect, and the opinions they contain are all debatable. The difficulty ratings are very approximate--some 2's, for example, are much harder than other 2's--but they may give you at least an idea. "M" means Middle School; the 1-4 scale is for Grades 9-12. Please note: a "1" does not mean the book is less valuable--just less difficult. An asterisk (\*) marks books or authors rated highly by students.

--Eric T. MacKnight

<p><b>Chinua Achebe</b>            Things Fall Apart; others            One of Nigeria's, and Africa's, most distinguished writers. Things Fall Apart tells the tragic tale of what happens to a village when the first white colonizers arrive.</p>	<p><b>AFR/1</b></p>	<p><b>Joan Aiken</b>            The Wolves of Willoughby Chase; others</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>
<p><b>Lloyd Alexander</b>            The Black Cauldron            "A great adventure story, in which the hero learns how truly complicated the world is, and discovers that everything is not simply black or white or good or evil. The book keeps you thinking -- for years in my case -- long after you've put it down."            (Jennifer Holm)</p>	<p><b>M</b></p>	<p><b>Isabelle Allende</b>            House of the Spirits; Eva Luna; stories            A very popular contemporary novelist. Allende's style is often compared with that of Gabriel Garcia Marquez.</p>	<p><b>LA/3</b></p>
<p><b>Aristophanes</b>            Lysistrata            A bawdy comedy with a socio-political punch. The women of Athens and Sparta, fed up with endless war, refuse to sleep with their husbands until the men stop fighting.</p>	<p><b>GK/3</b></p>	<p><b>Isaac Asimov</b>            Foundation; others            Asimov wrote more books than most people read. This trilogy is a science fiction classic.</p>	<p><b>US/1</b></p>
<p><b>Margaret Atwood</b>            The Handmaid's Tale; others            Popular contemporary Canadian novelist whose earlier poetry was also highly regarded; her concerns are largely political and feminist. Governor General's Award for Fiction, 1985.</p>	<p><b>CAN/3</b>            1985</p>	<p><b>Jane Austen</b>            Pride and Prejudice; others            Brilliantly witty social comedies set among the rural gentry of late 18th-century England. Austen is regarded as one of the greatest English novelists, but you have to enjoy the conversation.</p>	<p><b>BR/3</b></p>
<p><b>Samuel Beckett</b>            Waiting for Godot; others            Beckett is one of the giants of 20th-century literature, but his strange plays and stories about the absurdity and futility of life can be quite difficult.</p>	<p><b>BR/4</b></p>	<p><b>Saul Bellow</b>            novels            Contemporary American novelist.</p>	<p><b>US/3</b></p>
<p><b>*Judy Blume</b>            (Many titles)            Very popular with girls, Judy Blume's novels deal with problems and situations often encountered by teenagers.</p>	<p><b>US/M</b></p>	<p><b>Charlotte Bronte</b>            Jane Eyre            A growing-up story and an almost-Gothic romance all in one; one of the great English novels. Jane is an unusual heroine, still appealing to modern readers.</p>	<p><b>BR/2</b></p>

<p><b>Emily Bronte</b> Wuthering Heights Strange, dark novel of obscure passions, revenge, and eventual healing. Heathcliff is one of the most memorable characters in English fiction.</p>	<b>BR/3</b>	<p><b>Betsy Byars</b> The Moon and I Recommended by author Susan Katz (q.v.).</p>	<b>M</b>
<p><b>*Meg Cabot</b> The Princess Diaries “Better than the movie.”</p>	<b>M</b>	<p><b>Miguel de Cervantes</b> Don Quixote Some call <i>Don Quixote</i> the first novel. It was a huge “bestseller” which spawned several imitations, forcing Cervantes to write a sequel-- Part Two--ten years later. <i>Don Quixote</i> begins as a simple satire of chivalry, but gradually turns into something much bigger and deeper.</p>	<b>SP/2</b>
<p><b>Anton Chekhov</b> The Three Sisters Three educated but ineffectual sisters, stuck in a dumpy country town, dream of moving to Moscow. Chekhov ranks as one of the major writers of Czarist Russia for both his plays and his short stories.</p>	<b>RUS/3</b>	<p><b>Kate Chopin</b> The Awakening A restless young wife and mother reaches out for freedom and independence. Perhaps the first American “feminist” novel, recently re-discovered.</p>	<b>US/2</b>
<p><b>Driss Chraïbi</b> Heirs to the Past A wonderful Moroccan novel about being stuck between two cultures, and not being sure just who you are.</p>	<b>AFR/3</b>	<p><b>Joan Clark</b> The Hand of Robin Squires</p>	<b>CAN/M</b>
<p><b>Beverly Cleary</b> novels Newbery Medal Book: <i>Dear Mr. Henshaw</i>. Newbery Honor Books: <i>Ramona and Her Father</i> (1978), <i>Ramona Quimby, Age 8</i> (1982).</p>	<b>M</b>	<p><b>Joseph Conrad</b> Heart of Darkness A short but very complex and difficult story of a journey up the Congo River. Richly rewarding, but only to those willing to sweat. Conrad, born in Poland, worked on ships all over the world, taught himself English, and became one of the great English novelists.</p>	<b>BR/3</b>
<p><b>Susan Cooper</b> Over Sea, Under Stone</p>	<b>US/M</b>	<p><b>*Raold Dahl</b> Many novels Quirky and funny, Dahl’s novels are perennial favourites among students.</p>	<b>BR/M</b>
<p><b>Robertson Davies</b> Fifth Business; A Mixture of Frailties;</p>	<b>CAN/2</b>	<p><b>Daniel Defoe</b> Robinson Crusoe; Moll Flanders Robinson Crusoe is a great adventure tale, and a classic story that you ought to know. But it also reveals much about the values and anxieties of 18th-century England--as does Moll Flanders, the story of a woman who falls into poverty, and then into crime.</p>	<b>BR/3</b>

<p><b>Charles Dickens</b> David Copperfield; others This and Great Expectations are probably Dickens' best work, filled with drama, unforgettable caricatures, vivid descriptions. If you like history, try A Tale of Two Cities, an exciting melodrama set during the French Revolution.</p>	<b>BR/2</b>	<p><b>Peter Dickinson</b> The Blue Hawk; The Dancing Bear</p>	<b>US/M</b>
<p><b>Fyodor Dostoyevsky</b> The Brothers Karamozov; others Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy are the two giants of 19th-century Russian fiction. Dostoyevsky is darker, more brooding, perhaps more profound psychologically.</p>	<b>RUS/3</b>	<p><b>Brian Doyle</b> Hey, Dad!; Up to Low</p>	<b>CAN/M</b>
<p><b>Theodore Dreiser</b> Sister Carrie A long, naturalistic saga about America's favorite subjects: money, success, failure... and sex.</p>	<b>US/2</b>	<p><b>George Eliot</b> Silas Marner; Middlemarch; The Mill on the Tole If you like the Bronte sisters, try Eliot (also a woman, by the way--she published under a male pseudonym). Silas Marner is the easiest; the others are quite dense.</p>	<b>BR/3</b>
<p><b>Ralph Ellison</b> Invisible Man Don't confuse this classic African-American novel of racism with the H.G. Wells science-fiction thriller.</p>	<b>US/3</b>	<p><b>Buchi Emecheta</b> novels Contemporary Nigerian woman novelist.</p>	<b>AFR/1</b>
<p><b>Euripides</b> Medea; The Bacchae; others Euripides was the youngest of the three great Athenian tragic playwrights; his plays are the simplest of the three. Like Aeschylus and Sophocles, he took his plots from Greek mythology; you should read the myth (if you don't know it) before you read the play.</p>	<b>GK/3</b>	<p><b>William Faulkner</b> As I Lay Dying; others A poor-white-trash family in Mississippi tries to bury their mother. Each chapter is written from a different character's point of view. Faulkner, like Hawthorne, tries to probe the dark and twisted psyches of his characters with long, torturous sentences.</p>	<b>US/4</b>
<p><b>Henry Fielding</b> Tom Jones A great comic novel, but very long.</p>	<b>BR/3</b> (1749)	<p><b>Timothy Findley</b> The Wars</p>	<b>CAN/2</b>
<p><b>F. Scott Fitzgerald</b> The Great Gatsby; Tender Is the Night; Fitzgerald chronicles the dreams and failures of the young and wealthy during the Jazz Age of the 1920's.</p>	<b>US/2</b>	<p><b>Gustave Flaubert</b> Madame Bovary Emma Bovary, trapped in her mundane middle-class life, dreams of glamour and romance. A bourgeois tragedy.</p>	<b>FR/3</b>

<p><b>E.M. Forster</b> A Passage to India; others A novel of colonial India--could an Englishman and an Indian ever be friends? The movie is different from the novel.</p>	BR/3	<p><b>Athol Fugard</b> The Island; Master Harold and the Boys; Highly regarded anti-apartheid South African playwright. Powerful!</p>	AFR/3
<p><b>Leon Garfield</b> Smith; John Diamond</p>	BR/M	<p><b>Alan Garner</b> The Stone Book; The Owl Service</p>	BR/M
<p><b>Jean Craighead George</b> novels 1974 Newbery Medal Book: <i>Julie of the Wolves</i>. 1960 Newbery Honor Book: <i>My Side of the Mountain</i> Jean Craighead George</p>	M	<p><b>Gilgamesh</b> anonymous A 3000-year-old Sumerian epic about a man's inconsolable grief over the death of his best friend. Herbert Mason's adaptation/translation is especially beautiful, profound, and highly recommended.</p>	SUM/2
<p><b>J.W. von Goethe</b> The Sorrows of Young Werther One of the key works of European Romanticism. Werther falls hard for a married woman, with tragic results.</p>	GER/2	<p><b>William Golding</b> Lord of the Flies A group of British schoolboys crash-land on a tropical island and, without any adults, quickly turn into savages. (Golding doesn't think any better of the adults, by the way.)</p>	BR/2
<p><b>Nadine Gordimer</b> July's People; others Gordimer is one of South Africa's leading anti-apartheid novelists. In this short but dense novel, a white family is taken to the bush by their black servant and hidden there in his village as the black armies of liberation advance against the government's army.</p>	AFR/3	<p><b>Roger Lancelyn Green</b> Tales of the Greek Heroes; others</p>	BR/M
<p><b>Graham Greene</b> novels Greene's books are usually political thrillers, entertaining and very well written.</p>	BR/2	<p><b>Frederick Philip Grove</b> Over Prairie Trails</p>	CAN/?
<p><b>Lorraine Hansberry</b> A Raisin in the Sun A wonderful play. Hansberry, an African-American, died of cancer in her 30's; one wonders what other great work she might have produced, had she lived longer.</p>	US/2	<p><b>Thomas Hardy</b> Tess of the D'Urbervilles; others Hardy's novels are tragedies which raise the same kind of questions about fate, chance, and character that the ancient Greek tragedies raise, along with some more modern questions about society and the individual. Slow reading, but great.</p>	BR/3

<p><b>Nathaniel Hawthorne</b> The Scarlet Letter Classic American novel about sin, guilt, and human nature, set among the Puritans in early Boston. Slow, like Hardy, but rich.</p>	<b>US/3</b>	<p><b>John Hearne</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CAR/2</b></span> Voices Under the Window A fair-skinned Jamaican lawyer and politician remembers his life as he lies waiting for medical help during a riot in an unnamed city, presumably Kingston.</p>
<p><b>Roy Heath</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CAR/2</b></span> From the Heat of the Day The first of a trilogy, this family saga set in Guyana in the 1920's tells the story of the Armstrongs' dimly-realized and ultimately frustrated hopes and desires. A quiet, subtle novel, delicately but richly written, full of reflections on love and family</p>	<b>CAR/2</b>	<p><b>Joseph Heller</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/2</b></span> Catch-22 A satirical comedy about the madness of war: Yossarian tries to get out of flying more missions by claiming he's crazy, but the military doctors take his desire not to fly as proof of his sanity-- Catch-22.</p>
<p><b>Ernest Hemingway</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/2</b></span> The Sun Also Rises; others A group of American and British expatriates (the famous "lost generation") wander around Europe after World War I, drinking a lot and trying to figure out what to do with their lives. This is Hemingway's best novel, but for a more romantic story try A Farewell to Arms.</p>	<b>US/2</b>	<p><b>Frank Herbert</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/1</b></span> Dune A contemporary fantasy/sci-fi classic.</p>
<p><b>John Hersey</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/1</b></span> Hiroshima Not a novel. This book tells the story, based on eyewitness accounts, of what happened in Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945, when the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on the city.</p>	<b>US/1</b>	<p><b>Hermann Hesse</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>GER/2</b></span> Siddhartha; others Siddhartha searches for the meaning of life--a good introduction to Eastern philosophy, and a good story, too. Each of Hesse's novels is different from the others; see what you think.</p>
<p><b>Jennifer Holm</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>M</b></span> novels 2000 Newbery Honor Book: <i>Our Only May Amelia</i> . Other titles: <i>Boston Jane, An Adventure; Boston Jane, Wilderness Days</i></p>	<b>M</b>	<p><b>William Howells</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/2</b></span> The Rise of Silas Lapham The American dream, set in Victorian Boston.</p>
<p><b>Aldous Huxley</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>BR/2</b></span> Brave New World A disturbing--and still relevant--vision of a future ruled by technology.</p>	<b>BR/2</b>	<p><b>Henrik Ibsen</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>NOR/2</b></span> A Doll House; others Ibsen wrote social plays whose subtle complexities are easy to miss if the reader allows himself to be lulled by the deceptively simple surfaces. A Doll House is a feminist classic; for something more political, try An Enemy of the People.</p>
<p><b>Henry James</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/4</b></span> novels James wrote very rich, complex, slow-moving meditations on the quirks of human behavior; they are not for everyone, and they rarely appeal to younger readers. But <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>, a ghost story, is much more accessible and can serve as a good introduction to his other work.</p>	<b>US/4</b>	<p><b>Ruth Praver Jhabvala</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>POL/1</b></span> novels Jhabvala, though Polish, married an Indian and lived in Delhi for many years. Her stories often concern Europeans in India. Lately, she has been writing screenplays for films.</p>

<p><b>James Joyce</b>  novels and short stories  One of the giants of modernism, Joyce is too difficult for most high-school readers, but you might try <i>The Dubliners</i>, a collection of short stories.</p>	BR/4	<p><b>Susan Katz</b>  Snowdrops for Cousin Ruth  Also: <i>Mrs. Brown on Exhibit and Other Museum Poems</i></p>	M
<p><b>M.T. Kelly</b>  A Dream Like Mine  Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>	CAN/? 1987	<p><b>Rudyard Kipling</b>  Kim  A colorful adventure tale set in India. Kipling reveals some naive, typically colonialist views, but also tells a good story and creates some memorable characters (or are they only types?).</p>	BR/1
<p><b>John Knowles</b>  A Separate Peace  Two boys in a U.S. boarding school during WWII have an intense friendship that leads to surprising consequences.</p>	US/2	<p><b>Joy Kogawa</b>  Obasan</p>	CAN/?
<p><b>Henry Kreisel</b>  The Rich Man</p>	CAN/?	<p><b>Giuseppe di Lampedusa</b>  The Leopard  A Sicilian prince watches the decline of his family and his social class during the years 1860-1883. For those interested in history and politics.</p>	IT/2
<p><b>Margaret Laurence</b>  A Jest of God; The Diviners; The Stone</p>	CAN/?	<p><b>D.H. Lawrence</b>  Sons and Lovers; others  Lawrence is a wonderful and controversial poet, novelist, and essayist. See what you think.</p>	BR/3
<p><b>Stephen Leacock</b>  Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town</p>	CAN/?	<p><b>Harper Lee</b>  To Kill a Mockingbird  A favorite novel of many, many people--highly recommended!</p>	US/1
<p><b>Ursula LeGuin</b>  novels  Le Guin built a reputation with her Earthsea fantasy trilogy as one of the most thoughtful and provocative of today's fantasy and science-fiction writers.</p>	US/2	<p><b>Doris Lessing</b>  The Grass Is Singing; others</p>	AFR/2

<p><b>Sinclair Lewis</b> Babbitt; Main Street Social novels about the neuroses of small-town, bourgeois America.</p>	<p>US/1</p>	<p><b>*C.S. Lewis</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>BR/M</b></span> The Chronicles of Narnia Like Tolkien, Lewis was a university professor who wrote very popular books for younger readers.</p>
<p><b>Jack London</b> novels I particularly like The Sea-Wolf.</p>	<p>US/1</p>	<p><b>Lois Lowry</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>M</b></span> novels 1990 Newbery Medal: <i>Number the Stars</i>. 1994 Newbery Medal: <i>The Giver</i> .</p>
<p><b>Janet Lunn</b> The Root Cellar; Double Spell</p>	<p>CAN/M</p>	<p><b>Hugh MacLennan</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CAN/2</b></span> Barometer Rising; Two Solitudes; others Two Solitudes is a flawed but wonderful story exploring the French/English divide in Canada.</p>
<p><b>Christopher Marlowe</b> Dr. Faustus Faustus sells his soul to the devil in return for forbidden knowledge and power. This play makes an interesting comparison with Goethe's later version of the story. Marlowe died young; had he lived longer, he might have rivalled Shakespeare's success.</p>	<p>BR/2</p>	<p><b>Gabriel Garcia Marquez</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>LA/3</b></span> novels Perhaps Latin America's greatest living author, Garcia Marquez writes in a style that has been called "magical realism": a girl hanging out laundry, for example, suddenly flies up into the sky and disappears.</p>
<p><b>Fredelle Bruser Maynard</b> Raisins and Almonds</p>	<p>CAN/M</p>	<p><b>William Mayne</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>BR/?</b></span> A Game of Dark; The Jersey Shore; others</p>
<p><b>Herman Melville</b> Moby Dick; Billy Budd; others Moby-Dick is one of the greatest novels ever written, but don't let that scare you off. Ask me for my reading-guide if you want to give it a try. Melville's other works, though shorter, can be more difficult to read.</p>	<p>US/3</p>	<p><b>Arthur Miller</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>US/2</b></span> Death of a Salesman; The Crucible Miller is usually described as America's greatest living playwright.</p>
<p><b>Rohinton Mistry</b> Such a Long Journey Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>	<p>CAN/? 1991</p>	<p><b>W.O. Mitchell</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CAN/?</b></span> Who Has Seen the Wind; Jake and the Kid</p>

<p><b>Thomas More</b> Utopia More's book is the first modern description of an ideal society. If this topic interests you, try William Morris, <i>News From Nowhere</i>; Edward Bellamy, <i>Looking Backward</i>; or even B.F. Skinner, <i>Walden Two</i>.</p>	<p><b>BR/2</b> (1519)</p>	<p><b>Toni Morrison</b> The Bluest Eye; others Morrison is at the forefront of contemporary American writers. Highly recommended.</p>	<p><b>US/3</b></p>
<p><b>Alice Munro</b> Lives of Girls and Women; others Governor General's Award for Fiction for <i>Progress of Love</i> in 1986. Widely regarded as one of Canada's finest writers.</p>	<p><b>CAN/2</b></p>	<p><b>V.S. Naipaul</b> A Bend in the River Naipaul, an Indian from the West Indies, usually writes about post-colonial societies and clashes between cultures.</p>	<p><b>CAR/3</b></p>
<p><b>E. Nesbit</b> Five Children and It; others</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>	<p><b>James Ngugi</b> The River Between A beautiful, simple Kenyan novel about a young man who believes himself destined to lead his people to freedom in the second generation of white rule.</p>	<p><b>AFR/1</b> (1965)</p>
<p><b>*Jenny Nimmo</b> Midnight for Charlie Bone Look for other Charlie Bone titles, as well.</p>	<p><b>M</b></p>	<p><b>Eugene O'Neill</b> The Iceman Cometh; others O'Neill's plays are often melodramatic, but nevertheless powerful.</p>	<p><b>US/2</b> 1946</p>
<p><b>Michael Ondaatje</b> The English Patient Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>	<p><b>CAN/?</b> 1992</p>	<p><b>Alan Paton</b> Cry, the Beloved Country The most famous South African novel--beautiful, very moving, and perhaps even prophetic, in light of the peaceful transfer of power to representative government and the election of Nelson Mandela as President.</p>	<p><b>AFR/2</b> (1947)</p>
<p><b>Philippa Pearce</b> Tom's Midnight Garden</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>	<p><b>*Terry Pratchett</b> Reaper Man, others Adventure, fantasy, and British nonsense-humour.</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>
<p><b>Paul Quarrington</b> A Small Music Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>	<p><b>CAN/?</b> 1989</p>	<p><b>Thomas Raddell</b> Hangman's Beach; His Majesty's Yankees</p>	<p><b>CAN/1</b></p>

<p><b>Arthur Ransome</b> Swallows and Amazons; others</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>	<p><b>Marjorie K. Rawlings</b> <b>M</b> The Yearling "It is long, slow-moving, and of another era. But it's beautifully written; its characters are real; and its portrayal of a boy's coming-of-age is painful and moving." (Lois Lowry)</p>
<p><b>Erich Maria Remarque</b> All Quiet on the Western Front Remarque fought in World War I, and then wrote perhaps the greatest anti-war novel ever. Very moving, and highly recommended.</p>	<p><b>GER/1</b> (1928)</p>	<p><b>Mary Renault</b> <b>BR/2</b> The King Must Die, The Mask of Apollo, The These wonderful books re-tell stories from Greek myth and history, making a lost world come alive (it helps if you already know the stories, but it's not necessary).</p>
<p><b>Jean Rhys</b> The Wide Sargasso Sea The imagined childhood and youth of Rochester's mad wife (from Bronte's Jane Eyre). Strange and wonderful (read Bronte first!).</p>	<p><b>BR/3</b> (1966)</p>	<p><b>Nino Ricci</b> <b>CAN/?</b> Lives of the Saints Governor General's Award for Fiction. 1990</p>
<p><b>David Adams Richards</b> Nights Below Station Street Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>	<p><b>CAN/?</b> 1988</p>	<p><b>Mordecai Richler</b> <b>CAN/?</b> The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz;</p>
<p><b>Sinclair Ross</b> As for Me and My House</p>	<p><b>CAN/?</b></p>	<p><b>Gabrielle Roy</b> <b>CAN/2</b> The Road Past Altamont (1966) Four connected episodes from the life of a young girl growing up in French Manitoba: a lovely, lyrical meditation on mothers and daughters, aging, change and loss...a quiet book, but highly recommended.</p>
<p><b>J.D. Salinger</b> The Catcher in the Rye If you haven't read this book yet, you should!</p>	<p><b>US/1</b></p>	<p><b>George Bernard Shaw</b> <b>BR/2</b> plays Shaw followed in the footsteps of Ibsen in writing realistic social dramas which often criticized the way things were being done, but he is much funnier than Ibsen.</p>
<p><b>Mary Shelley</b> Frankenstein Not like the movie. Shelley's Romantic novel raises the same kind of questions as the Faustus legend. Like Goethe's Werther, it is extremely sentimental in spots, but the monster's account of his life is great.</p>	<p><b>BR/2</b> (1817)</p>	<p><b>Carol Shields</b> <b>CAN/?</b> Stone Diaries Governor General's Award for Fiction. 1993</p>

<p><b>Ignazio Silone</b> Bread and Wine A Catholic novel of Fascist Italy.</p>	<p><b>IT/1</b></p>	<p><b>Isaac Bashevis Singer</b> <b>US/2</b> novels and short stories Singer writes in Yiddish, the folk language of European Jews, and tells marvellous, wise, funny stories from the Jewish folk tradition, some set in modern times, some not.</p>
<p><b>Josef Skvorecky</b> The Engineer of Human Souls Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>	<p><b>CAN/?</b> 1984</p>	<p><b>Barbara Smucker</b> <b>CAN/M</b> Underground to Canada; Amish</p>
<p><b>Carolyn Dale Snedeker</b> Downright Dencey 1928 Newbery Honor Book. "It was about a rebellious Quaker girl, and I enjoyed it because I was rather rebellious myself at that age!" (Beverly Cleary)</p>	<p><b>M</b> 1927</p>	<p><b>Aleksander Solshenitsyn</b> <b>RUS/2</b> One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich A brief, horrific account of life in a Stalinist prison camp in Siberia--the book that made Solzhenitsyn famous.</p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Speare</b> The Witch of Blackbird Pond</p>	<p><b>US/M</b></p>	<p><b>John Steinbeck</b> <b>US/1</b> Of Mice and Men; other novels and short Steinbeck's best books are very good; all of them are easy to read, and interesting. Try The Grapes of Wrath.</p>
<p><b>Robert Louis Stevenson</b> Treasure Island; Kidnapped</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>	<p><b>Mary Stewart</b> <b>BR/2</b> The Crystal Cave, The Hollow Hills, and In this trilogy, Mary Stewart re-tells the King Arthur legend in a way that makes it all seem possible. Her main character is Merlin, not Arthur. Great stuff!</p>
<p><b>Rosemary Sutcliffe</b> Warrior Scarlet; The Lantern Bearers;</p>	<p><b>BR/M</b></p>	<p><b>Amy Tan</b> <b>US/2</b> The Joy Luck Club; The Kitchen God's Wife Two highly acclaimed contemporary novels by a young Chinese-American writer whose main subject is mothers and daughters. In this case, the mothers were born in China, the daughters in America; as a result, there are great gaps in their knowledge and understanding.</p>
<p><b>Henry David Thoreau</b> Walden; others If you dream of a simple life, close to Nature, read Walden; if you are angry at the government, read "Civil Disobedience"; if you want to learn to write better, read anything by Thoreau, and watch him work.</p>	<p><b>US/3</b></p>	<p><b>J.R.R. Tolkien</b> <b>BR/1</b> The Hobbit; The Lord of the Rings Tolkien is the father of all contemporary fantasy novels.</p>

<p><b>Leo Tolstoy</b> <b>RUS/3</b>  Anna Karenina; War and Peace  Of the “great writers” Tolstoy is one of the easiest to read, once you figure out all the Russian names, and nicknames. War and Peace is an historical epic, set during the Napoleonic wars; Anna Karenina is a tragic love story. Both are filled with wonderful characters and scenes.</p>	<p><b>Ivan Turgenev</b> <b>RUS/3</b>  Fathers and Sons (1861)  On one level this novel is about the conflict between generations; on another it is a political novel about the pre-Revolution rumblings in Czarist Russia.</p>
<p><b>Mark Twain</b> <b>US/3</b>  The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  One of the most important American novels, but still the subject of intense controversy: is the book, while obviously opposing slavery, nevertheless racist in its underlying attitudes, and its portrayals of African-Americans? Don't be deceived by the cartoon version.</p>	<p><b>Alison Utley</b> <b>BR/M</b>  A Traveller in Time</p>
<p><b>Jules Verne</b> <b>FR/1</b>  Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea;  Verne is a pioneer of science fiction.</p>	<p><b>Voltaire</b> <b>FR/3</b>  Candide (1750)  A comical attack on the idea that this is the best of all possible worlds. Filled with incredible incidents that turn out to be based on fact.</p>
<p><b>Kurt Vonnegut</b> <b>US/2</b>  Cat's Cradle, Slaughterhouse Five, Mother  Vonnegut writes strange, funny, sometimes bitter satires which often contain elements of fantasy and science fiction. Very popular, but not everybody's bag of tea.</p>	<p><b>Alice Walker</b> <b>US/2</b>  The Color Purple  Prize-winning and controversial African-American novel about the re-construction of a young woman's personality, and of her family.</p>
<p><b>H.G. Wells</b> <b>BR/1</b>  The Time Machine; others  Wells, along with Jules Verne in France, is the father of science fiction, and his books are still quite readable.</p>	<p><b>Edith Wharton</b> <b>US/1</b>  Summer; Ethan Frome; others  Wharton (1862-1937) has one foot in the 19th century (she tells stories in traditional ways), and the other in the 20th (she often writes about modern problems). Both of these are easy to read, but highly thought-provoking.</p>
<p><b>Patrick White</b> <b>AUS/4</b>  novels  White is widely regarded as Australia's greatest novelist.</p>	<p><b>Rudy Wiebe</b> <b>CAN/?</b>  A Discovery or Strangers 1994  Governor General's Award for Fiction.</p>
<p><b>Elie Wiesel</b> <b>ROM/1</b>  Night  Not a novel.. Elie Wiesel was eight years old when he and his family were arrested and taken to a Nazi concentration camp. This book tells what happened.</p>	<p><b>Thornton Wilder</b> <b>US/1</b>  Our Town (1938)  Classic American play about life in a small town.</p>

<p><b>Tennessee Williams</b> The Glass Menagerie, others A powerful play in which a young man must choose between himself and his family.</p>	<p>US/3 (1945)</p>	<p><b>*Jacqueline Wilson</b> Girls Out Late, Girls Under Pressure, etc. Similar to Judy Blume's novels, and equally popular with girls.</p>	<p>?M</p>
<p><b>Thomas Wolfe</b> Look Homeward, Angel A rambling, autobiographical novel of a young romantic's search for identity and meaning in his life. Great stuff.</p>	<p>US/3 (1929)</p>	<p><b>Virginia Woolf</b> To the Lighthouse; Mrs. Dalloway Stream-of-consciousness novels. Hard to follow at first, but if you get into them, they're great. Start with Mrs. Dalloway.</p>	<p>BR/3 (1925)</p>
<p><b>Richard Wright</b> Black Boy; Native Son Two very powerful books about American racism. Highly recommended.</p>	<p>US/1</p>	<p><b>Patricia Wrightson</b> The Ice Is Coming; Dark Bright Water</p>	<p>AUS/M</p>