

College Preparatory Reading List-Updated July 2006

This reading list has been compiled from recommendations by colleges and universities of books that incoming college freshmen should have read. It is meant to guide students in selecting significant literary works--classic and modern--representing many cultures and styles.

- Achebe, Chinua **Things Fall Apart**
Okonkwo, a proud village leader, is driven to murder and suicide by European changes to his traditional Ibo society. 191 p.
- Albom, Mitch **Tuesdays With Morrie**
Mitch Albom's Tuesday night visits with his dying sociology professor, Morrie, offer valuable lessons about the art of living and dying with dignity.
- Alvarez, Julia **In the Time of the Butterflies**
Based on the true story of three sisters who were martyred in 1960 in the Dominican Republic, and how their ordinary lives and loves were interrupted in their struggle for freedom. 325 p.
- Alvarez, Julia **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents**
This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic.
- Anaya, Rudolfo **Bless Me, Ultima**
The dramatic story of the poor Chavez family, which moves to a large city and faces unexpected problems. 248 p.
- Anderson, Sherwood **Winesburg, Ohio**
A collection of short stories lays bare the life of a small town in the Midwest. 247 p.
- Angelou, Maya **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**
An African-American writer traces her coming of age. 281 p.
- Asimov, Isaac **The Currents of Space**
One of many works by this master of science fiction. 231 p.
- Atwood, Margaret **The Handmaid's Tale**
A gripping suspense tale, a chilling look into the future where repression of women is rampant. 495 p.
- Atwood, Margaret **Cat's Eye**
The story of an artist's childhood and her search for fulfillment, by one of Canada's most distinguished writers. 446 p.
- Austen, Jane **Pride and Prejudice**
Bennet scrambles to find husbands for her five daughters in a gentle satire of human weaknesses and prejudice. 261 p.
- Austen, Jane **Emma**
Emma, a pretty and willful girl, thinks she knows what is best for everybody, including herself. 416 p.
- Baldwin, James **Go Tell It on the Mountain**
This semi-autobiographical novel about a 14-year-old black youth's religious conversion is based on Baldwin's experience as a young preacher in Harlem. 224 p.

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Bradbury, Ray **Dandelion Wine**

A novel about one summer in the life of a twelve-year-old boy. The writing is beautiful and the characters are wonderful living people. 281 p.

Bradbury, Ray **Fahrenheit 451**

Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which paper burns, and in the near future "firemen" are burning books forbidden by the totalitarian regime. 199 p.

Bradley, Marion Z. **The Mists of Avalon**

This retelling of the Arthurian legend, dominated by the character of Morgan le Fay, is a great and sweeping book tying together legend and lore. 876 p.

Bronte, Charlotte **Jane Eyre**

An intelligent and passionate governess falls in love with a strange, moody man tormented by dark secrets. 456 p.

Bronte, Emily **Wuthering Heights**

The love between Catherine and Heathcliff that even death cannot destroy. One of the masterpieces of English romanticism. 348 p.

Brown, Dee **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**

A gripping chronicle of 30 years of conflict between Native Americans and whites. 487 p. 970

Buck, Pearl **The Good Earth**

Pearl Buck's masterpiece, this novel won universal acclaim for its sympathetically authentic picture of pre-revolutionary Chinese life. 260 p.

Caputo, Philip **A Rumor of War**

A close-up look at the American experience in the Vietnam War...powerful, compassionate. 328 p.

Carroll, Lewis **Alice's Adventures through the Looking Glass**

A fantasy in which Alice follows the White Rabbit to a dream world. In addition to being a classic children's story, this is an insightful satire of the adult world. 143 p.

Castaneda, Carlos **Journey to Ixtlan**

A young man has an adventure and learns some lessons about life from an old master Don Juan. 315 p.

Cather, Willa **My Antonia**

A realistic novel about immigrant pioneers as they strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies. Antonia and the other characters are strengthened by the harsh realities of life. 238 p.

Cather, Willa **O Pioneers!**

The heroic battle for survival of simple Swedish farmers in Nebraska in the 1880's. 180 p.

Cervantes, Miguel de **Don Quixote**

Originally intended to satirize the romances of chivalry, this novel grew into a most entertaining novel, one of the world's great literary achievements. 443 p.

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Chaucer, Geoffrey **The Canterbury Tales**

A panorama of life in the Middle Ages...from the noble to the raunchy. A group of people from all walks of life join on a pilgrimage to Canterbury. A medieval classic. 200 p.

Chopin, Kate **The Awakening**

The story of a New Orleans woman who abandons her husband and children to search for love and self-understanding. 190 p.

Clark, Walter **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. 309 p.

Clarke, Arthur C. **Childhood's End**

A science fiction classic, in which humanity is subject to the power of the alien Overlords. 218 p.

Collins, Wilkie **The Moonstone**

Often called the first detective story in English, this mystery story revolves around the disappearance of a diamond named the Moonstone. 430 p.

Conrad, Joseph **The Heart of Darkness**

A journey up the river in the Belgian Congo is also a journey into the darkest part of a man's soul. 158 p.

Conrad, Joseph **Lord Jim**

A merciless analysis of a man who, branded as a coward among his fellows, found himself ultimately a demi-god among the Malay savages. 110 p.

Conroy, Pat **The Prince of Tides**

The novel exposes a terrible family secret, with abundant good humor, and compelling storytelling. 567 p.

Cooper, James F. **The Last of the Mohicans**

This is the second of the classic Leatherstocking Tales, with the scout Hawkeye and the Indian leader Chingachgook. 426 p.

Cormier, Robert **I Am the Cheese**

Adam, whose mind has blanked out, tries to recover his past. The suspense builds relentlessly to an shocking ending. 220 p.

Cormier, Robert **The Chocolate War**

Jerry Renault challenges the gang and the power structure of his school when he refuses to sell chocolates for the annual fundraiser. 253 p.

Crane, Stephen **The Red Badge of Courage**

This Civil War novel reveals the grim aspects of war in the life of an ordinary soldier. Henry Fleming joins the army full of romantic visions of battle which are shattered by combat. 224 p.

De Bernieres, Louis **Corelli's Mandolin**

The peaceful Greek island of Cephallonia is the setting for this heartbreaking, and hilarious story of the island's inhabitants over 50 years. Tender, powerful story of love and war. 437 p.

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Defoe, Daniel **Robinson Crusoe**

A hero's shipwreck and escape to an uninhabited island, founded on a true story. 348 p.

Dickens, Charles **A Tale of Two Cities**

Complex novel set in the midst of the French Revolution, filled with drama. 582 p.

Dickens, Charles **Oliver Twist**

The rousing adventure story of an orphan on the streets of Victorian England. 119 p.

Dillard, Annie **An American Childhood**

This book is about what it feels like to be alive and awake, as Dillard passionately explores her interior life. She evokes childhood's vigor, clarity, and keenness. 255 p.

Dinesen, Isak **Out of Africa**

Karen leaves Denmark to marry the Baron Von Blixen, and they buy a four-thousand-acre coffee plantation in Kenya, which she runs after their separation. 502 p.

Doerr, Harriet **Stones for Ibarra**

An American couple move to Mexico, to restore an old house and mill. The mixing of their culture and that of the Mexicans around them provides for a charming, touching story. 214 p.

Doerr, Harriet **Consider This, Senora**

Examining the lives of four North American expatriates in a small Mexican village, the story unfolds clearly and beautifully. Vivid experiences with a mixture of two cultures. 241 p.

Dorris, Michael **A Yellow Raft in Blue Water**

Three generations of Native-American women recount their searches for identity and love. Humorous and poignant. 343 p.

Dostoevski, Feodor **The Brothers Karamazov**

A novel that probes into the Russian character through the story of three different brothers. 412 p.

Dostoevski, Feodor **Crime and Punishment**

A psychological novel about a poor student who murders an old woman pawnbroker and her sister. 531 p.

Doyle, Arthur Conan **The Hound of the Baskervilles**

A classic Sherlock Holmes mystery, the case of the eerie howling on the moor and strange deaths at Baskerville. Superb plot. 282 p.

Dreiser, Theodore **Sister Carrie**

A powerful account of a young working girl's rise to the "tinsel and shine" of worldly success, and of the slow decline of her lover. 399 p.

Du Maurier, Daphne **Rebecca**

Rebecca, lovely and charming wife of an aristocrat, dies unexpectedly. His new wife comes to learn the truth about Rebecca's death and character. 380 p.

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Edgerton, Clyde **Walking across Egypt**

A humorous story set in a small town in North Carolina about a 78-year-old woman and her friendship with a wayward teenage boy. 216 p.

Edgerton, Clyde **Raney**

The story of the first two years in the life of a modern Southern marriage. A funny, deft, heartening book. 245 p.

Ellison, Ralph **The Invisible Man**

A black man's search for himself as an individual and as a member of his race and his society. 429 p.

Erdrich, Louise **The Beet Queen**

In 1932 the young Karl and Mary, strangely orphaned, arrive in North Dakota. The novel covers the next forty years with unforgettable characters and human relationships. 338 p.

Erdrich, Louise **Love Medicine**

The story of a group of Chippewa Indians and their culture under siege in a white man's world. 275 p.

Esquivel, Laura **Like Water for Chocolate**

Called magic realism, a poignant, funny story of love, life, and food which proves that all three are entwined and interdependent. 245 p.

Faulkner, William **Light in August**

In a novel about Joe Christmas, a central character who appears to be white, but is really black, Faulkner portrays the racist society of his home state Mississippi. 565 p.

Faulkner, William, **As I Lay Dying**

The Bundren family takes the ripening corpse of Addie, wife and mother, on a gruesomely comic journey. 250 p.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott **The Great Gatsby**

A young man corrupts himself and the American Dream to regain a lost love in the midst of endless parties and beautiful people. 182 p.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott **Tender is the Night**

Married to the beautiful, wealthy Nicole, Dick Diver lives a glittering life, but faces the falseness of their social values and her disturbed mind. 315 p.

Forster, E.M. **A Passage to India**

Three English newcomers to Chandrapore eagerly form a friendship with the educated Indian, Dr. Aziz, but jeopardize international relations when one of them accuses him of sexual assault.

Fowles, John **The French Lieutenant's Woman**

A young writer meets a woman Holocaust survivor who has come to the United States. He becomes increasingly fascinated with the woman and her past. 445 p.

Fowles, John **The Magus**

An elaborate tale of magic and eroticism. A young Englishman takes a teaching position on a Greek island and meets a strange family who change his life. 668 p.

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Frankl, Viktor

Man's Search for Meaning

Frankl endured years of unspeakable horror in Nazi death camps. This inspiring book describes how a person can survive terrible events and find meaning. 179 p.

Frazier, Charles

Cold Mountain

A rich story about a man who walks away from the Civil War and journeys back to his beloved, who is scratching a living from an inherited farm. Extraordinary events. 356 p.

Gaines, Ernest

A Lesson Before Dying

A young teacher is asked to help a young condemned man face his death with dignity. Set in the pre-civil rights south. 256 p.

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. 245 p.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel **Love in the Time of Cholera**

A love story that extends over 50 years, a lush, luxurious novel that's stylish, humorous, and filled with joyous detail. 348 p.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel **One Hundred Years of Solitude**

A technique called magical realism is used in this portrait of seven generations in the lives of the Buendia family. 416 p.

Gibbons, Kaye

Charms for the Easy Life

A delightful, quirky, and clever tale about three generations of headstrong Carolina women. 254 p.

Gibbons, Kaye

Ellen Foster

A young girl is resourceful in surviving her very difficult childhood. A remarkable story of a special relationship, which saves her. 126 p.

Godwin, Gail

The Finishing School

A teenage girl comes to live with an older woman, from whom she learns some startling things about life. 322 p.

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. 190 p.

Greene, Graham

The Power and the Glory

In Mexico, a whiskey-sotted priest finds he is hunted as an outlaw. 221 p.

Guest, Judith

Ordinary People

The accidental death of one of two sons brings a wealthy, suburban family to crisis and disintegration. 263 p.

Guterson, David

Snow Falling on Cedars

A Japanese-American on Puget Sound is accused of a murder. Both suspenseful and beautifully crafted, the novel explores issues of community, racism, and love. 345 p.

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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. 464 p.

Hardy, Thomas **Return of the Native**

Set on a barren moor in England, a young schoolmaster returns to his home town. He, along with his wife and her lover, experience the tragedy and pathos of life. 470 p.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel **The Scarlet Letter**

An adulterous Puritan woman keeps the identity of the father of her illegitimate child secret. 276 p.

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

Hephzibah tries to shelter her brother from the evil of Judge Pyncheon in this novel set in Puritan Massachusetts. 319 p.

Heller, Joseph **Catch-22**

A very funny satire about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing missions. 462 p.

Hemingway, Ernest **A Farewell to Arms**

A wounded American lieutenant in WWI falls in love and runs away with an English nurse, but their happiness is temporary. 336 p.

Hemingway, Ernest **For Whom the Bell Tolls**

A love story set against the turbulence of guerrilla warfare during the Spanish Civil War. A story of courage, dedication and treachery. 471 p.

Hemingway, Ernest **The Sun also Rises**

A novel about some members of the "lost generation" and their futile attempts to escape reality in Spain. 247 p.

Herbert, Frank **Dune**

A science fiction story set in a world of political intrigue. The young hero becomes the leader in a battle which touches on social and ecological issues. 412 p.

Herriot, James **All Things Bright and Beautiful**

More tales by the beloved Yorkshire veterinarian. 437 p.

Herriot, James **All Creatures Great and Small**

Stories told by the Yorkshire veterinarian, eloquent and humorous stories of people and animals. 442 p.

Hersey, John **Hiroshima**

A devastating account of the aftermath of the first atomic bomb as reflected in the lives of six survivors. 128 p.

Hersey, John **A Bell for Adano**

Set in World War II, a military officer ends up befriending many odd characters in the small Italian village of Adano. 269 p.

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Hesse, Herman **Steppenwolf**

The hero, Harry Haller, is torn between his own frustrated idealism and the inhuman nature of modern reality...rich in imagery. 246 p.

Hesse, Herman **Siddhartha**

This is an allegory that examines love, wealth, and freedom while the hero struggles toward self-knowledge. 152 p.

Hosseini, Khaled **The Kite Runner**

The Kite Runner follows the story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant. 371 p.

Hugo, Victor **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**

A strange romance, set in the Middle Ages, features Quasimodo, the hunchback, who is faithful unto death. A mix of the sublime and the grotesque. 416 p.

Hugo, Victor **Les Miserables**

Plotted like a detective story, the novel gives a vast panorama of Parisian society and its underworld. Moving from crime to social success, Jean ValJean lives a haunted life. 520 p.

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

A black woman in the deep South during the depression searches for a happy life as she evolves from girlhood to womanhood. 286 p.

Huxley, Aldous **Brave New World**

A bitter satire of the future, in which the world is controlled by advances in science and social changes. 177 p.

Ibsen, Henrik **The Doll's House**

Nora has everything a wife should want, or so her husband and society think, but she is not happy. An important play on the theme of women's roles. 242 p.

Irving, John **The World According to Garp**

An unusual novel about a young boy raised by his radical mother, filled with humor and surprising events. 608 p.

Irving, John **A Prayer for Owen Meany**

Two boys grow up together, knowing a special destiny awaits them. An extraordinary tale, filled with both humor and terror. 543 p.

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

In this horror story a young governess realizes that her two charges are controlled by ghosts. 103 p.

Joyce, James **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. Uses the stream-of-consciousness technique for which Joyce is famous. 255 p.

Joyce, James **The Dubliners**

Stories that present scenes of Dublin society and are intertwined by the use of autobiography and symbolism. 368 p.

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Kafka, Franz

The Trial

A man is tried for a crime he knows nothing about, yet for which he feels guilt. A provocative and disturbing book. 299 p.

Kantor, Mackinlay

Andersonville

After twenty-five years of research, Kantor wrote this novel, which realistically portrays the atrocities of Andersonville prison, home of many Yankee soldiers during the Civil War. 897 p.

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. McMurphy brings a spark of hope to the other patients. 272 p.

Kingsolver, Barbara

The Bean Trees

A young runaway woman suddenly finds herself the guardian of an abused, abandoned child. A gentle story with interesting people. 232 p.

Kingsolver, Barbara

Animal Dreams

Codi Noline learns secrets about her past that change her future when she returns home to care for her ailing father and to teach high school biology. 342 p.

Kingsolver, Barbara

Pigs in Heaven

In this sequel to *The Bean Trees*, Taylor Greer and her adopted daughter Turtle appear again in a tender, funny exploration of the clashing demands of mother love and ethnic heritage. 343 p.

Kingston, Maxine Hong **Woman Warrior**

The memoirs of a Chinese-American woman who grew up in two cultures. 243 p.

Koestler, Arthur

Darkness at Noon

This novel deals with the arrest and trial of a man in an unnamed dictatorship. It did much to draw attention to the nature of Stalin's regime. 267 p.

Lawrence, D.H

Sons and Lovers

An autobiographical novel about a youth torn between a dominant working-class father and a possessive genteel mother. 517 p.

Lee, Harper

To Kill a Mockingbird

Pulitzer prize winner. Jem and Scout watch as their father, Atticus Finch, defends a black man in an alleged rape case. They learn a lesson in justice and common decency. 284 p.

Lewis, C.S.

The Screwtape Letters

A satire on human weaknesses. Screwtape, an assistant to the Devil, writes letters to his boss about his attempts to corrupt this new Christian man. 172 p.

Lewis, C.S.

Out of the Silent Planet

This first work of a science fiction trilogy can be read for its exciting plot and its allegorical meanings. A classic battle of good and evil is played out on Mars, Venus, and Earth. 160 p.

Lewis, Sinclair

Main Street

A young doctor's wife tries to change the ugliness, dullness and ignorance which prevail in Gopher Prairie, Minnesota. 440 p.

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Lewis, Sinclair

Babbitt

Satire on American middle-class life. George Babbitt is a successful real estate man who has all the "correct" attitudes and catchwords. 401 p.

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. 158 p.

Machiavelli

The Prince

Written in the 16th century, this handbook of advice on the acquiring and use of political power added the word "machievellian" to the language. 283 p.

Mailer, Norman

The Naked and the Dead

In 1944 an American platoon takes part in the invasion and occupation of a Japanese-held island. Called one of the best novels by an American about World War II.

Malamud, Bernard

The Fixer

A Jewish handyman is wrongly arrested and charged with the killing of a Christian boy. A powerful story of injustice and endurance based on a true incident. 246 p.

Martel, Yann

Life of Pi

The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with wild animals. 319 p.

Mason, Bobbie Ann

In Country

Seventeen-year-old Sam is obsessed with the Vietnam War, which claimed her father. A harshly realistic look at the Vietnam War as well as the story of a young woman maturing. 245 p.

Maugham, Somerset

The Razor's Edge

A young WWI aviator returns from service utterly rejecting his pre-war values. He wants to discover the meaning of human existence and eliminate evil in the world. 343 p.

Maugham, Somerset

Of Human Bondage

The novel's hero is a sensitive, talented orphan who struggles for independence in his attempt to become an artist. Regarded as Maugham's best work. 648 p.

McCarthy, Cormac

All the Pretty Horses

Sixteen-year-old John and another boy head for Mexico on horseback. His unusual talent for breaking horses becomes crucial to his future. 302 p.

McCourt, Frank

Angela's Ashes

Memoir of the author's miserable Irish/American childhood and Catholic upbringing. His recollections are angry, but humorous and forgiving. 364 p.

McCullers, Carson

The Member of the Wedding

A young southern girl is determined to be the third party on a honeymoon, despite all the advice against it from friends and family. 195 p.

McCullers, Carson

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

After his friend is committed to an asylum, John, a deaf mute, finds himself alone. He becomes the pivotal figure in a strange circle of four other lonely individuals. 307 p.

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Melville, Herman **Moby Dick**

A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale, an epic tragedy of tremendous dramatic power and narrative drive. 324 p.

Melville, Herman **Billy Budd**

The death of innocence is one of the themes in this story of a sailor who is goaded into killing a sadistic officer. 184 p.

Michener, James **Hawaii**

A novel in which the racial origins of Hawaii are traced through several stories that carry into modern times. 937 p.

Michener, James **The Bridges at Toko-Ri**

The story of a young Navy pilot and his bombing missions over Korea during the early 1950s. 146 p.

Miller, Arthur **The Crucible**

A play based on the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692. It deals particularly with the hounding to death of the nonconformist John Proctor. 143 p.

Miller, Arthur **Death of a Salesman**

The tragic drama of a typical American who, at age 63, is faced with what he cannot face: defeat and disillusionment. 139 p.

Mitchell, Margaret **Gone with the Wind**

The epic love story between the beautiful and headstrong Scarlet O'Hara and the man she comes to love, Rhett Butler. Set against the background of the Civil War. 1037 p.

Morrison, Toni **The Bluest Eye**

Pecola, a young black girl, yearns to have beautiful blue eyes like the little white girls she sees. 160 p.

Morrison, Toni **Beloved**

The novel focuses on the life of the runaway slave woman Sethe and her struggle with the unspeakable pain of her past. Marked by rich language and exotic and magical elements. 275 p.

Mowat, Farley **Never Cry Wolf**

The true story of a man's adventures living with a pack of wolves and learning about their ways. 247 p.

O'Brien, Tim **The Things They Carried**

A collection of stories about American soldiers in Vietnam, based on O'Brien's own experiences. 273 p.

O'Connor, Edwin **The Last Hurrah**

An old-style politician who has been mayor of a large American city for about 40 years finds that his power is being challenged. 427 p.

O'Connor, Flannery **A Good Man is Hard to Find**

Social awareness, the grotesque, and the need for faith characterize these stories of the contemporary South. 251 p.

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O'Neill, Eugene **Long Day's Journey into Night**

A tragic play, set in 1912 in the summer home of a theatrical family that is isolated from the community by a kind of ingrown misery and a sense of doom. 176 p. 812 ONE

Oates, Joyce Carol **Black Water**

A novel based on the true episode with Sen. Ted Kennedy at Chappaquidick, in which a young woman dies. Told from the harrowing perspective of the young woman. 154 p.

Oates, Joyce Carol **Because It Is Bitter and Because It Is My Heart**

Set in a small city in the 1950s and 1960s two families struggle to advance themselves. A bond between the white girl and the black boy adds conflict in the midst of prejudice. 405 p.

Ondaatje, Michael **The English Patient**

Booker Prize-winning novel traces four damaged lives at the end of World War II. The memories of passion, betrayal, and rescue are told with beauty and intelligence. 302 p.

Orwell, George **1984**

A future society is ruled by Big Brother and the thought police. Winston Smith becomes involved in a forbidden love affair and joins the underground to resist this mind control. 268 p.

Parks, Gordon **The Learning Tree**

A fictional biography of a black family in a small Kansas town in the 1920s. Gordon Parks has since become a world-famous photographer. 303 p.

Patchett, Ann **Bel Canto**

What begins as a lavish birthday party at the home of the vice president of a South American country, quickly becomes a horrid event when terrorists take everyone hostage. 366 p.

Paterson, Katherine **Jacob Have I Loved**

Sara Louise has always felt like the unloved twin in competition with her sister. The return of an old captain to their isolated island gives Louise a chance to grow toward maturity. 216 p.

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 that his son has become a murderer. 269 p.

Percy, Walker **Love in the Ruins**

A psychiatrist invents a machine to help cure emotional woes.

Plath, Sylvia **The Bell Jar**

A novel about the mental illness of a brilliant 19-year-old girl and of her course of self-destruction. 216 p.

Plato **The Republic**

Part of the celebrated Dialogues in which Socrates is the questioner, Plato develops his views of the ideal state. This work has had a powerful influence on political thought. 146 p. 080 HUT

Potok, Chaim **The Chosen**

Friendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds and beliefs. 271 p.

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- Proulx, E. Annie **The Shipping News**
When a newspaperman loses his two-timing wife, he takes his two daughters to his ancestral home on the coast of Newfoundland, where he starts a new life. 337 p.
- Remarque, Erich **All Quiet on the Western Front**
A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death. The theme is universal in portraying the feelings of any young soldier. 248 p.
- Rolevaag, Ole **Giants in the Earth**
An epic tale of Norwegian settlers in the plains of South Dakota. Their difficulties are eloquently and tragically narrated. 465 p.
- Salinger, J.D. **Catcher in the Rye**
A prep school teenager drops out of his world, rejecting the phoniness he sees around him and searches in New York City for his lost soul. 277 p.
- Salinger, J.D. **Franny and Zooey**
At 20, Franny Glass is experiencing desperate dissatisfaction with her life. Her brother Zooey tries to help her out of this depression. 201 p.
- Saroyan, William **The Human Comedy**
A view of family life in the 1940s in a small town in California. We see life through the eyes of Homer and his family. 242 p.
- Sebold, Alice **The Lovely Bones**
This unusual and haunting novel beings as Susie Salmon tells us of her rape and murder, follows the progress on earth from her own version of "heaven." 328 p.
- Shaara, Michael **The Killer Angels**
Michael Shaara's account of the three most important days of the Civil War features deft characterizations of all of the main actors, including Lee and Pickett.
- Shakespeare **Macbeth**
A classic Shakespeare tragedy about the dangers of ambition when carried too far and without morality. 214 p.
- Shakespeare **A Midsummer Night's Dream**
One of Shakespeare's great comedies, a story of confusion and rivalry in love, with a mixture of the magical. 90 p.
- Shakespeare **Hamlet**
One of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies, a young man has to decide how to avenge his father's death. 165 p.
- Shelley, Mary **Frankenstein**
A gothic tale of terror in which Frankenstein creates a monster from corpses. 125 p.
- Shields, Carol **The Stone Diaries**
Shields uses narrative, diaries, and letters to tell the story of Daisy Stone from her strange birth in 1905 till her death in 1995. Beautifully written with interesting characters. 361 p.

College Preparatory Reading List-Updated July 2006

This reading list has been compiled from recommendations by colleges and universities of books that incoming college freshmen should have read. It is meant to guide students in selecting significant literary works--classic and modern--representing many cultures and styles.

Silko, Leslie Marmon **Ceremony**

This story, set on an Indian reservation just after World War II, concerns the return home of a war-weary young Navajo man. 259 p.

Sinclair, Upton **The Jungle**

The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this influential turn-of-the-century novel. 352 p.

Smiley, Jane **A Thousand Acres**

Based on Shakespeare's *King Lear*, this story of an Iowa farmer and his three daughters is a powerful story of family members trying to deal with their past. 405 p.

Smith, Betty **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

The American classic about a young girl's coming of age. . . a poignant and deeply understanding story of childhood and family relationships. 443 p.

Solzhenitsyn, A. **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. 158 p.

Steinbeck, John **Of Mice and Men**

George and child-like Lennie are a mismatched pair who share a dream of owning a farm of their own during the Depression, but that dream is cut short by a fatal accident. 186 p.

Steinbeck, John **The Grapes of Wrath**

The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the Depression is the subject of this moving novel. 619 p.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher **Uncle Tom's Cabin**

The book relates the trials, suffering, and human dignity of Uncle Tom, an old black slave. The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system. 434 p.

Styron, William **Sophie's Choice**

Sophie is a Polish Catholic Holocaust survivor who has resettled in America after the war. She meets two men, one of whom has a growing fascination with her past. Powerfully moving. 627p

Swift, Jonathan **Gulliver's Travels**

Gulliver encounters dwarfs and giants and has other strange adventures when his ship is wrecked in distant lands. 556 p.

Tan, Amy **The Joy Luck Club**

After her mother's death, a young Chinese-American woman learns of her mother's and her friends' mothers' difficult early lives in China. 288 p.

Tan, Amy **The Kitchen God's Wife**

The novel begins with the unfolding of secrets that takes a mother and daughter back to a small island in the 1920s and traces their coming to America in 1949. 415 p.

Thackeray, William M. **Vanity Fair**

Social vanity and inequity are on full display as the lives of five Victorians are contrasted, compared, and held to the light like trinkets at a fair.

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Thoreau, Henry David **Walden**

Philosophy of life and observations of nature drawn from the author's solitary sojourn of two years in a cabin on Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts. 208 p.

Thurber, James **My Life and Hard Times**

The famous American humorist tells about his youth in a Midwestern town. 115 p.

Tolkien, J. R. R. **The Lord of the Rings**

Middle Earth becomes the battleground between good and evil as Frodo struggles to destroy the ring of power and greed. 1137 p.

Tolstoy, Leo **Anna Karenina**

Anna forsakes her husband for the dashing Count Vronsky and brief happiness. 447 p.

Tolstoy, Leo **War and Peace**

Set during the invasion of Russia by Napoleon's army, the novel shows how people move from youthful uncertainty to a more mature understanding of life. 1456 p.

Trumbo, Dalton **Johnny Got His Gun**

This compassionate description of the effects of war on one soldier is a poignant tribute to the human instinct to survive. 309 p.

Twain, Mark **Innocents Abroad**

An irreverent American travels through Europe, reacting sarcastically to the Europeans who consider him an "innocent." 651 p.

Twain, Mark **Huckleberry Finn**

Huck takes an adventurous trip down the river with a runaway slave. Hemingway said all modern American literature comes from this book. 312 p.

Twain, Mark **A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court**

Through a time travel fantasy, a swaggering Yankee is plummeted into the age of chivalry. 336 p.

Tyler, Anne **Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant**

A story of a woman, deserted by her husband, who brings up her three children. Over the years, Ezra tries to bring the family together through his homey restaurant. Sad yet noble. 303 p.

Tyler, Anne **Saint Maybe**

A young man, through unusual circumstances, becomes responsible for two young children. His struggles to care for them are touching and very human. 387 p.

Updike, John **Rabbit, Run**

A brilliant evocation of everyday life in America in the 1950s and the longings and frustrations of family life. Updike followed the character with three later novels. 284 p.

Updike, John **In the Beauty of the Lilies**

Updike's finest novel is filled with a wonderfully vivid cast of dreamers, wimps, social climbers, crackpots, and lost souls. 491 p.

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Uris, Leon

Exodus

A novel about the determination of the Jews after WWII to find a safe homeland. It also includes the warm love story of Ari and Kitty, who cares for the children caught in this nightmare. 626 p.

Uris, Leon

Trinity

A novel set against the background of the tragic conflicts in Northern Ireland, between the Protestants and Catholics. 751 p.

Vonnegut, Kurt

Slaughterhouse Five

Billy Pilgrim, an optometrist from Ilium, New York, shuttles between the cellars of Dresden and a luxurious zoo on the planet Tralfamadore. 186 p.

Vonnegut, Kurt

Cat's Cradle

In this satire on religion, research, government, and human nature, a free-lance writer becomes the catalyst in a secret that could be more lethal than nuclear warfare. 223 p.

Walker, Alice

The Color Purple

Pulitzer prize winning novel in which poverty-stricken Celie reveals, in a series of letters to God and her sister, her struggle to overcome the brutality in her life in the deep South. 215 p.

Warren, Robert Penn

All the King's Men

A young journalist becomes involved in a political power struggle; his journey is filled with exploitation, deceit, and violence. 170 p.

Wharton, Edith

The Age of Innocence

A subtle social satire of New York City in the 1920s, a place of tight social classes with rituals for everything from romance to etiquette at the opera. 361 p.

Wiesel, Elie

Night

This Nobel Prize winner is a searing account of the Holocaust as experienced by a 15-year-old boy. 116 p.

Wright, Richard

Native Son

Gripping novel about Bigger Thomas, a young black man from the Chicago slums, who finds himself on the run from the police after involuntarily committing a brutal murder. 392 p.