

Recommended Reading Checklist

One of the best ways to get yourself ready for college—and life—is by reading. No, not just skimming your homework assignments or breezing through romance novels, but really getting into some of the classics. After all, there's a reason these books are classics: people enjoy them, are challenged by them, and learn from them. In addition, they help you improve your reading skills, increase your vocabulary, expand your horizons, and prepare you for college entrance tests.

Compiled below is a list of classics that are a good place to start in building your reading program. Check off those you've already read. Talk with your friends, parents, and teachers about which ones might be the best ones for you to read first.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Bible</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Chaucer, Geoffrey
<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitzgerald, F. Scott
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesop
<i>Fables</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Conrad, Joseph
<i>Lord Jim</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Forster, E. M.
<i>A Passage to India</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agee, James
<i>A Death in the Family</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Crane, Stephen
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Frank, Anne
<i>Diary of a Young Girl</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcott, Louisa
<i>May Little Women</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Defoe, Daniel
<i>The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Frost, Robert
<i>Poetry</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anderson, Sherwood
<i>Winesburg, Ohio</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dickens, Charles
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Greene, Graham
<i>The Power and the Glory</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Austen, Jane
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dickens, Charles
<i>David Copperfield</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton, Edith
<i>Mythology</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin, James
<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dickens, Charles
<i>Oliver Twist</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawthorne, Nathaniel
<i>House of the Seven Gables</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronte, Charlotte
<i>Jane Eyre</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dickens, Charles
<i>Great Expectations</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawthorne, Nathaniel
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronte, Emily
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan
<i>Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Heller, Joseph
<i>Catch-22</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Browning, Elizabeth
<i>Barrett Poetry</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dreiser, Theodore
<i>An American Tragedy</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hemingway, Ernest
<i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Browning, Robert
<i>Poetry</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Faulkner, William
<i>As I Lay Dying</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Homer
<i>The Iliad</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bunyan, John
<i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Faulkner, William
<i>Light in August</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Homer
<i>The Odyssey</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camus, Albert
<i>The Fall</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fielding, Henry
<i>Shamela</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo, Victor
<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camus, Albert
<i>The Stranger</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Fielding, Henry
<i>Tom Jones</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ibsen, Henrik
<i>A Doll's House</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carroll, Lewis
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> James, Henry
<i>The American</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cather, Willa
<i>Death Comes for the Archbishop</i> | | |

- ❑ James, Henry
The Turn of the Screw
- ❑ Kafka, Franz
The Trial
- ❑ Kipling, Rudyard
The Jungle Books
- ❑ Lawrence, D. H.
Sons and Lovers
- ❑ Lawrence, D. H.
Women in Love
- ❑ Lee, Harper
To Kill a Mockingbird
- ❑ Lewis, Sinclair
Babbitt
- ❑ Lewis, Sinclair
Main Street
- ❑ London, Jack
The Call of the Wild
- ❑ Mailer, Norman
The Naked and the Dead
- ❑ Mann, Thomas
The Magic Mountain
- ❑ Melville, Herman
Moby Dick
- ❑ Mitchell, Margaret
Gone with the Wind
- ❑ O'Neill, Eugene
The Emperor Jones
- ❑ Orwell, George
1984
- ❑ Orwell, George
Animal Farm
- ❑ Ovid
Metamorphoses
- ❑ Pasternak, Boris
Doctor Zhivago
- ❑ Poe, Edgar Allan
Tales and Poetry
- ❑ Porter, William
Sydney (O. Henry) Tales
- ❑ Remarque, Erich
All Quiet on the Western Front
- ❑ Salinger, J. D.
The Catcher in the Rye
- ❑ Sandburg, Carl
Abraham Lincoln
- ❑ Sandburg, Carl
Poetry
- ❑ Scott, Sir Walter
Ivanhoe
- ❑ Shakespeare, William
Hamlet
- ❑ Shakespeare, William
Henry IV
- ❑ Shakespeare, William
Julius Caesar
- ❑ Shakespeare, William
Macbeth
- ❑ Shakespeare, William
Romeo and Juliet
- ❑ Shaw, George Bernard
Pygmalion
- ❑ Shelley, Mary
Frankenstein
- ❑ Sophocles
Oedipus Rex
- ❑ Steinbeck, John
Of Mice and Men
- ❑ Steinbeck, John
The Grapes of Wrath
- ❑ Stevenson, Robert Louis
Treasure Island
- ❑ Stowe, Harriet Beecher
Uncle Tom's Cabin
- ❑ Swift, Jonathan
Gulliver's Travels
- ❑ Thackeray, William
Makepeace Vanity Fair
- ❑ Tolkien, J. R. R.
Lord of the Rings
- ❑ Tolstoy, Leo
War and Peace
- ❑ Twain, Mark
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- ❑ Twain, Mark
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
- ❑ Twain, Mark
Life on the Mississippi
- ❑ Verne, Jules
Around the World in 80 Days
- ❑ Wells, H. G.
The Time Machine
- ❑ Wharton, Edith
The Age of Innocence
- ❑ Wharton, Edith
Ethan Frome
- ❑ Wilder, Thornton
Our Town
- ❑ Williams, Tennessee
A Streetcar Named Desire
- ❑ Woolf, Virginia
To the Lighthouse
- ❑ Wyss, Johann David
The Swiss Family Robinsonology