

## LITERATURE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Albom, Mitch**

*Tuesdays with Morrie*

The author learns of his old professor (whom he describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf) becoming ill and goes to spend his last months with him for one final lesson on life. This memoir shows the importance of friendship and kindness towards others.

**Austen, Jane**

*Pride and Prejudice*

Love and marriage among the English country gentry ; an exquisitely written novel in the tradition of comedy of manners dealing with a family's life in the nineteenth century.

*Sense and Sensibility*

**Bradberry, Travis**

*Emotional Intelligence 2.0*

**Bradbury, Ray**

*Fahrenheit 451*

A science fiction classic. This book rivals Orwell's *1984* for its bleak version of a technological future—books are burned by firemen (the title refers to the burning point of paper), drugs are rampant, earphones are worn by everyone to tune out society, and wall-sized televisions dominate the household. After a while, one fireman begins to see the value of the printed word.

**Brontë, Charlotte**

*Jane Eyre*

The story of Jane Eyre, a plain yet spirited governess and her employer, the arrogant, Mr. Rochester, a strange, moody man tormented by dark secrets.

**Brontë, Emily**

*Wuthering Heights*

A tale of a love that is stronger than death, of revenge, and a fierce vision of metaphysical passion that has become one of the masterpieces of English romanticism.

**Buck, Pearl**

*The Good Earth*

The powerful and moving story of a peasant Wang Lung; of the family he founded that would one day become a powerful dynasty; of the gods he implored, sometimes with humility, sometimes with anger; and of the earth that sustained him, the land that he made prosper against the ravages of nature and savage attacks of bandit tribes.

**Chaucer, Geoffrey**

*The Canterbury Tales*

**Chopin, Kate**

*The Awakening*

A New Orleans woman suffers the consequences when she violates a taboo by abandoning her husband and children for the man she loves and to search self-understanding.

**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.

**Dickens, Charles**

*A Tale of Two Cities*

The French Revolution is the setting for this tale of adventure, love, and intrigue.

*David Copperfield*

This novel traces the early years of the orphan- narrator as he experiences both good and bad people and events in the early 18th century.

**Great Expectations**

The moving story of the rise, fall, and rise again of a humbly-born young orphan.

**Oliver Twist**

An orphan escapes to London, where he is captured by thieves and is forced to join in their escapades before finding happiness through an unexpected benefactor.

**Dickinson, Emily**

*Poems*

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

**The Sound and the Fury**

**Fitzgerald, F. Scott**

*The Great Gatsby*

A young man corrupts himself and the American Dream to regain a lost love. This novel is actually a love story within a love story.

**Franklin, Benjamin**

*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

**Golding, William**

*Lord of the Flies*

The novel depicts the degeneration of a group of schoolboys marooned on a desert island who test the values of civilization when they attempt to set up a society of their own.

**Hamilton, Edith**

*Mythology*

A noted collection of Greek, Roman, and Norse myths and legends that are often alluded to in the language and literature of the Western world.

**Hansberry, Lorraine**

*A Raisin in the Sun*

The voices of an African American family struggling against poverty and with one another's needs pull readers into this drama. Family loyalty, the need for a strong black identity, and the frustration of the American dream just beyond the grasp of the younger family are all relevant in this drama.

**Hawthorne, Nathaniel**

*The House of the Seven Gables*

*The Scarlet Letter*

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

**Hemingway, Ernest**

***A Farewell to Arms***

During World War I, an American lieutenant runs away with the woman who nurses him back to health.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls***

An American fights against fascism in Spain by leading a band of guerrillas in a hopeless cause.

***The Old Man and the Sea***

***The Sun also Rises***

**Hinton, S.E.**

***The Outsiders***

S.E. Hinton was just 16 years old when she wrote this novel about teenagers getting caught up in class struggles.

**Hurston, Zora Neale**

***Their Eyes Were Watching God***

**Huxley, Aldous**

***Brave New World***

A satire of a future in which the world is controlled by advances in science and social changes.

**Jackson, Shirley**

***The Lottery and Other Stories***

**Joyce, James**

***Dubliners***

***A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man***

A novel about an Irish young man rebelling against his family, his country, and religion.

**Kesey, Ken**

***A Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest***

A novel about a power struggle between the head nurse and one of her male patients in a mental institution.

**Keyes, Daniel**

***Flowers for Algernon***

When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him. It does ... but then the mouse begins to regress.

**Knowles, John**

***A Separate Peace***

Narrator Gene returns to Devon School 15 years after the end of World War II and recalls the unnatural "peace" experienced there by boys who were on the brink of going to war.

**Lee, Harper**

***To Kill a Mockingbird***

This novel explores racial tensions in a small Alabama town through the eyes of 6-year-old Scout Finch, as her lawyer father, Atticus, defends a black man accused of raping a white woman.

**McCourt, Franck**

***Angela's Ashes***

An autobiographical book about McCourt's growing up in poverty in Ireland and making his way to become a professor and writer. A gripping, intriguing work.

**McCullers, Carson**

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*

**Melville, Herman**

*Billy Budd, Sailor*

*Moby Dick*

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

**Miller, Arthur**

*Death of a Salesman*

The tragedy of a typical american man who, at age 63, is faced with what he cannot face: defeat and disillusionment.

*The Crucible*

**Morrison, Toni**

*Beloved*

The spirit of a murdered infant haunts the home of a former slave in Ohio a few years after the civil war, bringing fear but also comfort to its mother.

**O'Brien, Tim**

*The Things They Carried*

**Orwell, George**

*1984*

Orwell creates a world where people are controlled by the government ; a novel about absolute power and absolute fear.

*Animal Farm*

It's overworked and mistreated animals overtake a farm. They set out to develop a place of justice and peace but in the end, the revolution brings unexpected consequences: « All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. »...

**Paton, Alan**

*Cry, the Beloved Country*

This novel takes place in South Africa, during the time of racial injustice. This is the story of a Zulu pastor who searches for his sick sister in Johannesburg, and discovers that she has become a prostitute and his son a murderer.

**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.

**Roy, Arundhati**

*The God of Small Things*

A family story that takes place in India *The God of Small Things* is a dreamy look at another culture with lessons on dealing with suffering that seem universal.

**Salinger, J.D.**

*The Catcher in the Rye*

A novel about young Holden Caulfield's disillusionment and fear for adulthood.

**Shakespeare, William**

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*Hamlet*

*Julius Cesar*

*King Lear*

*Macbeth*

*Much Ado about Nothing*

*Othello*

*Romeo and Juliet*

*The Merchant of Venice*

*The Taming of the Shrew*

*The Tempest*

**Shaw, George Bernard**

*Pygmalion*

**Shelley, Mary**

*Frankenstein*

A gothic tale of terror in which Frankenstein creates a monster from corpses. Mary Shelley bet her husband that she could write a better horror story than him. Well, she did.

**Sinclair, Upton**

*The Jungle*

This novel depicts the deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards at the turn of the century.

**Smith, Betty**

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

**Steinbeck, John**

*East of Eden*

*Of Mice and Men*

*The Grapes of Wrath*

The desperate fight of tenant farmers from the Midwest during the Depression.

**Stockett, Kathryn**

*The Help*

**Swift, Jonathan**

*A Modest Proposal*

*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.

**Thoreau, Henry David**

*Walden & Civil Disobedience*

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

**Twain, Mark**

***The adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

Huckleberry Finn and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom.

**Walker, Alice**

***The Color Purple***

The story of two sisters—one a missionary to Africa and the other a child wife living in the South—who remain loyal to one another across time, distance, and silence.

**Wharton, Edith**

***Ethan Frome***

Set in the bleak, barren landscape of New England, this is the tragic tale of Ethan Frome, bound to the demands of his farm and his tyrannical wife, Zeena, and his star crossed love for Zeena's vivacious cousin, Mattie. Irony abounds in this sad story of a man trying to decide whether personal happiness should come before obligation and duty.

***The Age of Innocence***

**Wilde, Oscar**

***The Importance of Being Earnest***

A comedy exposing quirks and foibles of Victorian society.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray***

**Wilder, Thornton**

***Our Town***

**Williams, Tennessee**

***A Streetcar Named Desire***

Blanche Dubois' fantasies of refinement and grandeur are brutally destroyed by her brother-in-law.

***The Glass Menagerie***

**Woolf, Virginia**

***Mrs Dalloway***

**Wright, Richard**

***Black Boy***