

The Old Man and the Sea
by Ernest Hemingway

This tale of the struggles of an old Cuban fisherman tells the story of courage, self-control and endurance. FIC Hem

Lord of the Flies by William Golding The narrow line between civility and savagery is revealed when a group of schoolboys find themselves alone on a deserted island after an atomic accident. FIC Gol

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce Stream of consciousness technique tells the story of Stephen Dedalus and his inner conflicts and spiritual, emotional and intellectual development in a turbulent Ireland. FIC Joy

Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, Julius Caesar, Sonnets or other works
by William Shakespeare 822.3 Sha

Tragic romance, anguished deliberations, enchanted forests, courtship, marriage and undying love are just some of the themes of Shakespeare's works.

Babbit by Sinclair Lewis

Follow businessman George Babbit as he rebels from, then conforms to, his mindless middle-class life. FIC Lew

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Depicts the basic conflicts in modern society through the portrayal of two misfits from different worlds. FIC Hux

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Neurotic, idealist Holden Caulfield fears the fall away from the innocence of childhood into the phony adult world. FIC Sal



The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The sensitive observations of an adolescent girl juxtaposed with the threat of Nazis make up this bittersweet diary of life in hiding. B Frank

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

Understated, spare prose chronicles the alienation of American and British expatriates in Spain during the 1920s. F Hem

The Odyssey by Homer

Epic poem which tells the story of the wandering Odysseus following the Trojan War. It is at once a tale of incredible adventure and an influential work of literature. 883 Hom

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer

Narrative poetry of the stories told by an assortment of pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket which shows Chaucer as keen social observer, humorist and master storyteller. 820 Cha



Prepared by J. Newschwander 1/2008

Descriptions from:

*Editors of Salem Press. Recommended Reading:
500 Classics Reviewed Englewood
Cliffs, N.J. Salem Press, 1995.*

*Sitrey, Anita. 500 Great Books for Teens.
Boston. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.*

CLASSICS



*These titles are on many
required reading lists, but
don't let that discourage
you from enjoying their
tales of romance, angst,
adventure, suspense and
true-to-life experiences.*



Certainly, this brochure does not list all classics, but instead gives ideas for enjoyable and meaningful reading. These suggestions are drawn from several high-school-level sources. It includes works which have stood the test of time and continue to hold the interest of readers of



Native Son by Richard Wright

Protest novel which shows the oppression of the northern blacks in the 1930s as exemplified by the crimes of Bigger Thomas. FIC Wri

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
by Mark Twain

Follow the adventures of an outcast boy and a runaway slave as they float down the Mississippi on a raft in this influential American novel. Also consider many other works by Twain: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. FIC Twa

Walden by Henry David Thoreau

With beautiful prose, these reflective, autobiographical essays blend social criticism, philosophical discussion and descriptions of nature. 810 Tho

Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus
by Mary Godwin Shelley

Determined to find the secrets of life and death, a scientist creates a monster who both articulate and sympathetic, tells his own sad story. FIC She

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury

Twelve-year-old Douglas Spaulding experiences the everyday wonders of summer and the bittersweet fickleness of the passage of time. FIC Bra

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

This witty portrayal of English country life focuses on Elizabeth Bennet and her four unmarried sisters and is a masterpiece of social satire containing one of literature's most famous romances. FIC Aus

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkein

The three volume fantasy reveals Tolkein's rich and remarkable world of his imagination where good and evil face off in a story that draws on mythology, legend and literature. FIC Tol

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Concise story of two drifters who find their dreams and their friendship destroyed by their inability to cope with moral weaknesses. FIC Ste

The Grapes of Wrath by Jon Steinbeck

Poignant saga of the Joad family's journey to California to escape the Dust Bowl drought. The Joads' saga represents the desperate plight of many American farmers during the Great Depression. FIC Ste

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

First-person narrative of Jane, often thought to be one of the first fully-developed female characters in literature, as she tells her story of growth from young orphan to a adult who refuses to accept less than her due as a woman and as a person. FIC Bro

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Intense characterizations and a mood that is mirrored in the dark and windswept moors tell the passionate tale of Catherine and Heathcliff. FIC Bro

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Human emotions and value systems that transcend history are seen in Hester and her community as they grapple with questions still relevant today. FIC Haw

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Accusations, fear, betrayal, guilt, love and honor in 1692--the time of the Salem Witch trials. 810 Mil

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Two of literature's most beloved characters, Scout and her father Atticus Finch, come to understand the nature of evil and that barriers to tolerance do exist. Both remain firm in their belief in the goodness of people. FIC Lee

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

A convict, the eccentric Miss Havisham and the lovely Estella all play a role in the life of Pip, a village boy who through the kindness of a mysterious benefactor, and in spite of many blunders, learns the value of real love and honest work. Also consider other works by Dickens such as: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Bleak House*, *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *A Christmas Carol*. FIC Dic

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

This archetype of the narrative style follows the story of Jay Gatsby and his futile quest for the heart of Daisy Buchanan. FIC Fit

My Ántonia by Willa Cather

The vast and unforgiving prairie frontier serves as the backdrop for the lifelong struggles of Bohemian immigrant Ántonia. FIC Cat

The Selected Poetry and Prose of Edgar Allen Poe
by Edgar Allen Poe

Rat-infested dungeons, a vengeful murderer, what is considered to be the first detective story and the unsolvable crime, are all included. 810 Poe