

# Senior Reading List

This is a compilation from College Board and other lists of great books.

Author	Book Title
Agee, James	<i>A Death in the Family</i> – This powerful novel deals with responses to death from an adult’s and from a child’s point of view. 320 1020L
Angelou, Maya	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> – This book recounts the author’s developing years during the 1950s after she is sent to live with her grandmother. Later she is raped, driven out of her father’s home, and forced to live with hobos. 304 1070L
Archibald, William	<i>The Innocents</i> – Miss Giddens arrives as a governess to Miles and Flora, but she soon finds out that the ghosts of the previous governess and handyman have possessed the bodies of the two children. {a play}
Arnold, Harriette	<i>The Dollmaker</i> -- Gertie, a strong Kentucky farm woman, has a special skill as a woodcarver. As she watches life in her valley being threatened by the impact of WWII, Gertie’s greatest desire is to own her own land. She struggles to help her family survive. 608 1120L
Asimov, Isaac	<i>The Fantastic Voyage</i> – This novel presents the possibilities and great dangers of scientific advances in medicine. When a Communist defector carrying critical military secrets is injured, a delicate operation is needed – a process that reduces people and objects to molecular size. 208 770L
Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> – The Bennets have five daughters and no sons. Mrs. Bennett will stop at nothing to find husbands for her daughters. 320 1070L
Bagnold, Enid	<i>The Chalk Garden</i> – Mrs. St. Maugham is interviewing candidates for governess to her troubled granddaughter who lies and sets fires. Miss Madrigal with a mysterious background is hired. {a play}
Blackmore, R.D.	<i>Lorna Doone</i> – John faces the conflicts of loving a woman whose family killed his father. 192
Borland, Hal	When the Legends Die – Must an Indian be assimilated into the white man’s culture to survive?
Bradbury, Ray	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> – Montag, a fireman, lives in a future world in which people have become thoughtless robots glued to huge TV screens. Montag’s task is to seek out hidden books and burn them because the government believes people will be happier if they are not upset or forced to think. 208 890L <i>The Martin Chronicles</i> – Imagine what will happen when Earth colonizes Mars 190 740L <i>The Illustrated Man</i> – a book of 18 science fiction short stories that explores the nature of mankind. 288 880L
Braithwaite, E.R.	<i>To Sir With Love</i> – Braithwaite cannot get a job as an engineer because he is black, so he gets a job teaching the “incorrigibles.” The experience changes his life and theirs. 192 1080L
Bronte, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i> – Jane Eyre goes out into the world to become a governess. As she lives happily in her position at Thornfield Hall, she meets the dark, cold, and abrupt master of the house, Mr. Rochester. 704 890L
Bronte, Emily	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> – Catherine loves Heathcliff who runs away when he is mistreated by her brother. When he returns, Catherine has married. 416 880L
Brown, Dee	<i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i> – The tragic story of the white man’s systematic destruction of the American Indian between 1860 and 1890. 487 1080L
Buck, Pearl	<i>The Good Earth</i> – Wang and his wife survive famine, flood, and war to retain their land in China, which represents for them the source of life. But as Wang’s family builds a financial empire, their simple ways are corrupted by the civilization of the city. 260 1530L
Camus, Albert	<i>The Stranger</i> – Watching the world, rather than being involved with life, the character is a stranger to feelings. He feels no grief, no remorse, no love. 123 880L
Cather, Willa	<i>Death Comes to the Archbishop</i> – The account of two priests in New Mexico and their dream to build a cathedral. 304 1150L <i>O Pioneers!</i> – The struggle of one woman to keep the land she loves. Nebraska is the setting of this book. 224 930L

	<i>My Antonia</i> – Jim Burden recalls growing up in Nebraska at the turn of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century and his childhood sweetheart, Antonia. 240 1010:
Chopin, Kate	<i>The Awakening</i> – Edna struggles to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century South. 192 960L
Cleland, Max	<i>Strong at the Broken Places</i> – Max lost both legs and one arm when he stepped on a grenade. This book is the account of one man who freed himself from self-pity. 208
Conrad, Joseph	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> – A man travels into the heart of the Belgian Congo in search of a missing trader. 160 1050L <i>Lord Jim</i> – A man spends his life trying to redeem his reputation and lost sense of honor. 340 1110L
Cooper, James F	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> – A colonial scout (Hawkeye) and two Mohican Indians lead a pair of sisters through the wilderness to safety. 320 1350L <i>The Deerslayer</i> – The tale of Natty Bump, known as the Deerslayer, and his friends fighting the Iroquis savages. His friends are captured and Deerslayer must rescue them. 608 1380L
Craven, Margaret	<i>I Heard the Owl Call My Name</i> – Mark, a young priest dying of cancer, is sent to serve a church in a small Indian village in Canada. 160 1080L
Creamer, Robert	<i>Babe: The Legend Comes to Life</i> – the story of one of the greatest baseball players of all time. 448
Dickson, Margaret	<i>Maddy's Song</i> – The story of Maddy Dow, a musical prodigy who struggles to protect her brothers and sisters from their abusive father. 320
Du Maurier, Daphne	<i>Jamaica Inn</i> – After her mother's death, Mary goes to live with her aunt and uncle at Jamaica Inn. Mary becomes aware of illegal activities at the inn. 304 1070L <i>Rebecca</i> – A young woman marries a wealthy man with a mysterious past, moves to his home in Cornwall, and struggles with living in the shadow of his dead first wife's memory. 384 880L
Defoe, Daniel	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> – After his ship goes down, the sole survivor finds himself alone on an island. 298 1070L
Dickens, Charles	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> – This book takes place during the French Revolution. Lucie's love for Charles is endangered because he is a member of the hated family, the most ruthless branch of the French aristocracy. 240 990L <i>David Copperfield</i> – the tale of a boy who is sent to work in a factory. 880 1070L <i>Oliver Twist</i> – the tale of an abused orphan who finally finds his way to family and fortune. 320 990L
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> – A huge, savage dog haunts the Baskerville family. He is already responsible for two deaths. Is it a supernatural creature fulfilling an old family curse or part of a plot to conceal a mysterious secret? Sherlock Holmes will find the answer. 176 1090L
Dumas, Alexandre	<i>The Three Musketeers</i> - A tale of swashbuckling adventure of three friends. 656 960L
Edmonds, Walter D	<i>Drums Along the Mohawk</i> – During the American Revolution, the most feared enemies are the Indians paid by the British. The war becomes very personal as the settlers struggle to save the farms they have carved out of the wilderness. 608 830L
Eliot, George	<i>Silas Marner</i> – Silas cuts himself off from all human contact after becoming wealthy, but then he finds an infant on his hearth. 220 1300L
Ellison, Ralph	<i>Invisible Man</i> – addresses many of the social and intellectual issues facing African-Americans early in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. 608 950L
Fast, Howard	<i>April Morning</i> – When the British are headed their way, farmers muster to defend their homes. Adam has never felt close to his father, yet love between them is expressed just before Moses becomes one of the first casualties of the American Revolution. 208 1050L <i>Citizen Tom Paine</i> – The fictionalized biography of the down-and-out Englishman whose fiery rhetoric sparked the American Revolution. 348 1060L
Faulkner, William	<i>As I Lay Dying</i> – the story of the death of Addie Bundren and her family's quest to honor her wish to be buried in the town of Jefferson. 288 870L <i>The Sound of the Fury</i> – The story of the Compson family of Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi, told from four different points of view. 427 870L

	<b><i>Intruder in the Dust</i></b> – Lucas, a black man, is accused of murdering a poor white man. Charlie wants to help Lucas because Lucas once saved Charlie’s life. 256
Flaubert, Gustave	<b><i>Madam Bovary</i></b> – Emma marries Charles who is a good man but totally fails to satisfy her passionate nature. 448 1030L
Forester, C.S.	<b><i>The African Queen</i></b> – During World War I, Charles and Rose join forces to navigate Ulgana River on the aging riverboat <i>The African Queen</i> . A book of suspense, comedy, and romance. 256
Golding, William	<b><i>Lord of the Flies</i></b> – Thrown from a destroyed plane, a group of British schoolboys attempt to establish civilization on a deserted island. 208 770L
Graines, Ernest J	<b><i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i></b> – The story of one black woman’s courageous fight for life and dignity begins during the Civil War and ends during the Civil Rights demonstrations of the 1060s. Miss Jane, at the age of 110, tells her own story. 272 710L
Greenberg, Joanne	<b><i>I Never Promised You a Rose Garden</i></b> – Deborah lives with family pressure and is never able to measure up to the expectations of her parents. Her mind retreats to the hidden world of Yr. 288 960L
Greene, B	<b><i>The Summer of My German Soldier</i></b> – Patty is a sensitive young Jewish girl who lives in Arkansas. When a group of German POWs is sent to her hometown to pick cotton, she becomes friends with one special German. 208 800L
Griffin, John H	<b><i>Black Like Me</i></b> – Griffin changes his skin color and ventures into the South during the 1960s. 192 990L
Guest, Judith	<b><i>Ordinary People</i></b> – Conrad’s suicide attempt after the death of his brother shattered the fragile structure of his family. Conrad tries to put his life back together. 256 600L
Gunther, John	<b><i>Death Be Not Proud</i></b> – This biography tells the story of Gunther’s 15-year-old son who was stricken with a brain tumor. 224 1060L
Haley, Alex	<b><i>Roots</i></b> – chronicles Haley’s family history beginning with the story of Kunta Kinte 736 1330L
Hardy, Thomas	<b><i>Tess of the d’Urbervilles</i></b> – A native country girl is seduced by a wealthy man and bears a child. 480 1160L
Hawthorne, N	<b><i>The House of Seven Gables</i></b> – The Pyncheons bear the curse of Matthew Maule, who was hanged so that the first Pyncheon might steal his land to build his mansion. 360 1320L
Heller, Joseph	<b><i>Catch 22</i></b> - A man wants to stop fighting a war, but is trapped by the illogical military bureaucracy. 464 1140L
Hemingway, Ernest	<b><i>A Farewell to Arms</i></b> – An ambulance driver, serving on the Italian Front in World War I, falls in love with an English nurse. 336 730L <b><i>The Sun Also Rises</i></b> – A group of American and English expatriates go to Pamplona for week-long party. 256 610L <b><i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i></b> – His mission is to blow up a bridge during the war. It is the most important thing in his life until he meets Maria. 480 840L
Herriot, James	<b><i>All Creatures Great and Small</i></b> – Herriot tells of his adventures as a veterinarian in England during the 1930s. 448 990L
Higgins Clark, M	<b><i>Where are the Children</i></b> – Recounts the life of Nancy Eldridge who had been accused seven years before of murdering her two children. Now she is accused of kidnapping her two adopted children. 304 790L
Holt, Victoria	<b><i>Mistress of Mellyn</i></b> – When Martha becomes governess at Mount Mellyn, she is fascinated with the house and his master. She begins to probe the death of the master’s first wife. 240 760L
Hugo, Victor	<b><i>Les Miserables</i></b> – The novel follows the lives and interactions of several characters, focusing on the struggles of ex-convict Jean Valjean. 416 990L
Hunt, Irene	<b><i>Across Five Aprils</i></b> – Jethro, a nine-year-old boy, watches as his brothers choose sides during the Civil War He becomes the man of the family. 192 1100L
Huxley, Aldous	<b><i>Brave New World</i></b> – In the future, people are produced by cloning, technology is god, and everyone is kept totally happy. Being a misfit then is the ultimate disaster. Bernard and John are misfits. 288 870L
Kafka, Franz	<b><i>The Metamorphosis</i></b> – Gregor is transformed into a giant beetle. 150 1340L
Kaufman, Bel	<b><i>Up the Down Staircase</i></b> – The trials of first-year English teacher in a New York City high school. 368

Keller, Helen	<i>Teacher: Anne Sullivan Macy</i> – Helen Keller’s tribute to the teacher who changed her life. 256
Kennedy, John F	<i>Profiles in Courage</i> – The book recounts the personal valor of eight U.S. senators who risked political and personal defeat to follow the leadings of their conscience. 304 1410L
Kesey, Ken	<i>One Who Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest</i> – A boisterous rebel swaggers into the ward of a mental hospital and takes over. 320 1110L
Kesselring, Joseph	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i> – This mystery comedy tells of two sweet old ladies who have poisoned eleven visitors with elderberry wine and have buried the corpses in the cellar. {a play}
Keyes, Daniel	<i>Flowers for Algernon</i> – Charlie is a mentally disabled young man who is selected for experimental surgery, which could turn him into a genius. 224 910L
King, Stephen	<i>Carrie</i> – An abused, shy girl is the object of every student prank, but she possesses an extraordinary power. 208 850L
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>Captains Courageous</i> – The adventures of fifteen-year-old Harvey Cheyne, Jr., the arrogant and spoiled son of a railroad tycoon. 176 1020L
Kililes, Maria	<i>Karen</i> – a mother’s tribute to her handicapped daughter 222
Lawrence and Lee	<i>Inherit the Wind</i> – This play deals with the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. Bertram Cates is on trial for teaching evolution in science class. 144 850L
Lewis, Sinclair	<i>Babbitt</i> – the author’s ironic condemnation of mindless middle-class America in the 1920s. 400 1110L <i>Main Street</i> – Idealistic Carol marries Dr. Will and moves to Gopher Prairie. The young bride has visions of turning the town into a cultural oasis, but she struggles in vain to bring reform and culture to people who do not want to change. 448 1010L
Lipsyte, Robert	<i>The Contender</i> – Two black teenagers need a way out of Harlem. One tries to escape through drugs, but the other finds a better way – he begins training to become a boxer. 240 760L
Lord, Walter	<i>Day of Infamy</i> – December 7, 1941, the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. 256 1030L <i>A Night to Remember</i> – the story of the Titanic 224 950L
Mathis, Sharon Bell	<i>Teacup Full of Roses</i> – the story of three brothers and their struggles to survive 128 560L
McCullers, Carson	<i>The Member of the Wedding</i> – This play explores the need for belonging. Frankie is a lonely girl with a gift for exaggerated fantasy. 160 900L <i>The Heart is a Lonely Hunter</i> – Mick Kelley, a young girl struggling to grow up, lives in the “outside room” of the real world and the “inside room” of her imagination. She can communicate best with Mr. Singer, a mute watchmaker. 320 760L
McCullough, Colleen	<i>The Thornbirds</i> – The story of the Clearlys, a great family struggle of Australia 520 990L
Melville, Herman	<i>Moby Dick</i> – Captain Ahab would sacrifice his ship and crew to get revenge on the great whale that took his leg. 687 1200L
Mowat, Farley	<i>Never Cry Wolf</i> – Project Lupine, a study of wolves. 176 1330L
Parks, Gordon	<i>The Learning Tree</i> – Newt is a young black boy growing up in Kansas in the 1950s. When he witnesses the murder of a white neighbor by a black man, he is afraid to report what he sees. 240 860L
Pasternak, Boris	<i>Doctor Zhivago</i> – During the Russian Revolution, Yuri marries Tonia, the daughter of a wealthy family. After he sends his family to the country for safety, Yuri meets the beautiful Lara. 592 1010L
Paton, Alan	<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> – Apartheid. Stephen goes to Johannesburg in search of his son and sister. He finds his sister as a prostitute and his son involved in a murder charge. 320 860L
Plath, Sylvia	<i>The Bell Jar</i> – The story of Esther Greenwood, an intelligent, sensitive girl for whom life has become a prison. This story is her battle against mental illness, represented by the bell jar. 336 1140L
Potok, Chaim	<i>The Chosen</i> – This book recounts the experience of growing up as an orthodox Jew in America during the 1940s. 304 970L <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> – This novel presents the tortured world of a young Jewish artist whose talent comes into conflict with family and his faith. 384 640L
Price, Eugenia	<i>The Beloved Invader</i> – Anson is determined to prove to himself that he is not like his father. 288 910L

Remarque, Erich M	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> – chronicles the experiences of young German soldiers caught in the hell of World War I. 304 830L
Roberts, Kenneth	<i>Rabble in Arms</i> – Peter and his brother Nathaniel leave their farm to follow General Benedict Arnold on a march against the British. Against the backdrop of war, Peter falls in love with Ellen. 640 1010L
Rolvaag, OE	<i>Giants in the Earth</i> – the story of Norwegian settlers in the Dakota territory in the 1870s. 560 760L
Salinger, JD	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> – A boy examines his life after being expelled from prep school. 224 790L
Sarton May	<i>A Reckoning</i> – The story of Laura Spelman, who is told by her doctor that she has terminal lung cancer. 256 840L
Sayers, Dorothy L	<i>Cloud of Witness</i> – Lord Peter’s brother has been accused of shooting the fiancé of their sister. The murder took place during a house party, and all the guests look guilty. 198
Sayers, Gale	<i>I Am Third</i> – the story of Gale Sayers, the great running back for the Chicago Bears 238 870L
Scott, Walter	<i>Ivanhoe</i> – a tale of chivalric romance 512 1410L
Shelley, Mary	<i>Frankenstein</i> – A science experiment produces a creature. 272 1170L
Solzhenitsyn, A	<i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i> – How does a man remain human in the hell of a Siberian concentration camp? 200 900L
Steinbeck, John	<i>Cannery Row</i> – The cannery district of Monterey is home to society’s dropouts, outcasts, and misfits. Ironically, some of the very misfits personify the noblest traits of human goodness. 208 930L <i>East of Eden</i> – The saga of the Trask and Hamilton families. The story of the love-hate relationship between two pairs of brothers parallels the Cain-Abel story in the Bible 640 700L
Stevenson, Robert L	<i>Treasure Island</i> – the adventures of young Jim who discovers a map indicating the location of buried treasure 144 1010L <i>Kidnapped</i> – David, a disinherited heir, journeys to find his uncle who later arranges to have the boy kidnapped and sold as a white slave. 352 990L
Stewart, Mary	<i>Nine Coaches Waiting</i> – Linda becomes governess to Phillipe, who stands in the way of his uncle’s desire to own the estate. 272 890L <i>Hollow Hills</i> – The story of Merlin, King Arthur’s tutor 475 980L
Stowe, Harriet B	<i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i> – The story of two slaves in the American South 656 1050L
Ten Boom, Corrie	<i>The Hiding Place</i> – This is the true story of one woman’s survival in a German concentration camp. 256 900L
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Hobbit</i> – Bilbo is an ordinary, peace-loving hobbit who is drawn away from his home and into great adventures by a group of dwarves and by the wizard Gandalf. 320 1000L
Twain, Mark	<i>The Prince and the Pauper</i> – Two unhappy boys who look very much alike trade places. 280 1170L <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court</i> – Struck on the head, a skilled mechanic awakes to find himself in Camelot in the year 528. 288 1080L
Van Tilburg, Clark W	<i>The Ox-Bow Incident</i> - A story of mob violence in a small western town. Three innocent men are accused of murder. 224 890L
Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> – Phileas Fogg and his newly employed valet attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days on a bet. 240 1070L <i>A Journey to the Center of the Earth</i> – A German professor believes there are volcanic tubes going toward the center of the Earth. He, his nephew, and their guide Hans descend into an extinct Icelandic volcano, encountering many adventures, including prehistoric animals and natural hazards. 304 1040L <i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> – the story of Captain Nemo and his submarine <i>Nautilus</i>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> – An American POW witnesses the firebombing of Dresden during World War II. 224 850L
Walker, Alice	<i>The Color Purple</i> – Celie, the protagonist and narrator, is a poor, uneducated, fourteen-year-old black girl living in the South. She starts writing letters to God because her father, Alphonso, beats and rapes her. The book chronicles her survival. 300 670L
Wells, HG	<i>The Invisible Man</i> – Things begin to disappear. . . . 170 920L

- West, Jessamyn  
Wharton, Edith
- The Friendly Persuasion* – the story of a Quaker family. 228 970L  
*The House of Mirth* – Lily has been educated to be a beauty of high society. After her father’s financial failure and her mother’s death, Lily has no skills. She is left at the mercy of her aunt, Mrs. Penniston. 368 1230L  
*Age of Innocence* – At his engagement party, Newland is attracted to his fiancée’s cousin 288 1170L  
*Ethan Frome* – Ethan Frome works his unproductive farm and struggles to maintain a bearable existence with his difficult, suspicious, and hypochondriac wife, Zeenie. But when Zeenie’s vivacious cousin enters their household as a hired girl, Ethan finds himself obsessed with her and with the possibilities for happiness she comes to represent. 160 1200L
- White, TH  
Wilde, Oscar
- The Once and Future King* – a modern retelling of the King Arthur legend. 640 1080L  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* – The tale of a man who sells his soul to evil forces in exchange for eternal youth. 272 920L
- Wilder, Thornton
- The Bridge of San Luis Rey* – in 17<sup>th</sup> century Peru, the collapse of a bridge killed five people. Why these five? Who were these people? 144 1080L
- Williams, Tennessee
- The Glass Menagerie* – Amanda’s husband abandoned the family long ago. She yearns for the comforts she remembers from her days as a Southern belle. She yearns especially for these things for her daughter Laura, a young adult with a disability. Tom does his best to support them. {a play}
- Wister, Owen  
Wouk, Herman
- The Virginian* – a cowboy adventure of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American West 416 830L  
*The Caine Mutiny* – Maryk leads a mutiny against their captain who seems to be incompetent. 560 910L  
*The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* – The defense contends that Captain Queeg was too mentally unstable to retain his command and that Maryk acted to save the ship. {a play}
- Wright, Richard
- Native Son* – Bigger Thomas, a young black man, goes to work for Mr. Dalton, a wealthy man who wants to give young black boys a chance. Yet, Mr. Dalton also owns the rat-infested tenement in which Bigger and his family are forced to live. The anger inside Bigger explodes. 528 700L
- Zindel, Paul
- The Pigman* – When John and Lorraine, two high school sophomores, meet Mr. Pignati, they learn his whole sad, zany story. 222 950L  
*Pardon Me, You’re Stepping on my Eyeball* – Fifteen-year-old “Marsh” Mellow thinks the whole world hates him. Then he meets Edna Shinglebox, a classmate who looks as freaky and depressed as he is. 240 960L