

College Reading Lists

Featured here will be lists offered by various US colleges and universities as guidelines to incoming students. Some of the lists will be what the college feels the incoming freshman should have read by the time s/he enters the school. Some lists reflect the reading an incoming student can expect during the freshman year. Other lists may have different parameters. The material for this page is taken from *Reading Lists for College-Bound Students*, 2nd Ed. Doug Estell, Michele L. Satchwell, and Patricia S. Wright. ARCO (Division of Prentice Hall). This book is available for purchase on the Amazon.com page. If you have a college or university whose list you'd like to see, make your request via e-mail.

The 100 Most-Often-Recommended Works for College Freshman

Novels and Short Stories

Jane Austen	Pride and Prejudice	British, 1813
James Baldwin	Go Tell It on the Mountain	American, 1953
Saul Bellow	Seize the Day	American, 1956
Charlotte Brontë	Jane Eyre	British, 1847
Emily Brontë	Wuthering Heights	British, 1847
Albert Camus	The Stranger	French, 1942
Lewis Carroll	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	British, 1865
Willa Cather	My Antonia	American, 1918
Miguel de Cervantes	Don Quixote	Spanish, 1605,1617
Kate Chopin	The Awakening	American, 1899
Joseph Conrad	Heart of Darkness	British, 1902
Stephen Crane	The Red Badge of Courage	American, 1895
Daniel Defoe	Robinson Crusoe	British, 1719
Charles Dickens	Great Expectations	British, 1860-61
Fyodor Dostoyevsky	Crime and Punishment	Russian, 1866
George Eliot	The Mill on the Floss	British, 1860
Ralph Ellison	Invisible Man	American, 1947
William Faulkner	The Sound and the Fury	American, 1929
Henry Fielding	Tom Jones	British, 1749
F. Scott Fitzgerald	The Great Gatsby	American, 1925
Gustave Flaubert	Madame Bovary	French, 1857
E.M. Forster	A Passage to India	British, 1924
Gabriel Garcia Márquez	One Hundred Years of Solitude	Columbian, 1967
William Golding	Lord of the Flies	British, 1954
Thomas Hardy	Tess of the D'Urbervilles	British, 1891
Nathaniel Hawthorne	The Scarlet Letter	American, 1850
Ernest Hemingway	A Farewell to Arms	American, 1929
Zora Neale Hurston	Their Eyes Were Watching God	American, 1937
Aldous Huxley	Brave New World	British, 1932
Henry James	The Turn of the Screw	American, 1898
James Joyce	A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man	Irish, 1916
Franz Kafka	The Trial	Czechoslovakian, 1925

D.H. Lawrence	Sons and Lovers	British, 1913
Sinclair Lewis	Babbitt	American, 1922
Bernard Malamud	The Assistant	American, 1957
Thomas Mann	Death in Venice	German, 1912
Herman Melville	Moby-Dick	American, 1851
Toni Morrison	Sula	American, 1973
Flannery O'Connor	A Good Man Is Hard to Find	American, 1955
Tillie Olsen	Tell Me a Riddle	American, 1956--60
George Orwell	Animal Farm	British, 1945
Alan Paton	Cry, the Beloved Country	South African, 1948
Edgar Allan Poe	Great Tales and Poems	American, 1839-45
J.D. Salinger	The Catcher in the Rye	American, 1951
Sir Walter Scott	Ivanhoe	British, 1820
Mary Shelley	Frankenstein	British, 1818
John Steinbeck	The Grapes of Wrath	American, 1939
Jonathan Swift	Gulliver's Travels	British, 1726
William Makepeace Thackeray	Vanity Fair	British, 1847-48
Leo Tolstoy	War and Peace	Russian, 1865-69
Ivan Turgenev	Fathers and Sons	Russian, 1862
Mark Twain	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	American, 1886
John Updike	Rabbit, Run	American, 1961
Voltaire	Candide	French, 1759
Kurt Vonnegut	Slaughterhouse Five	American, 1969
Alice Walker	The Color Purple	American, 1982
Eudora Welty	Thirteen Stories	American, 1965
Edith Wharton	The Age of Innocence	American, 1920
Virginia Woolf	To the Lighthouse	British, 1927
Richard Wright	Native Son	American, 1940
Drama		
Aeschylus	Oresteia	Greek, 458 BCE
Aristophanes	Lysistrata	Greek, 411 BCE
Samuel Beckett	Waiting for Godot	Irish, 1952
Bertolt Brecht	Mother Courage and Her Children	German, 1941
Anton Chekhov	The Cherry Orchard	Russian, 1904
Euripides	Medea	Greek, 431 BCE
Johann von Goethe	Faust, Part I	German, 1808
Henrik Ibsen	A Doll's House	Norwegian, 1879
Christopher Marlowe	Doctor Faustus	British, 1604
Arthur Miller	Death of a Salesman	American, 1949
Molière	The Misanthrope	French, 1666
Eugene O'Neill	Desire Under the Elms	American, 1924
William Shakespeare	Hamlet	British, 1600
George Bernard Shaw	Pygmalion	British, 1913
Sophocles	Oedipus Rex	Greek, 430 BCE
Oscar Wilde	The Importance of Being Earnest	British, 1895
Thornton Wilder	Our Town	American, 1938

Tennessee Willilams	The Glass Menagerie	American, 1945
Poetry		
Allison, Alexander, Editor	Norton Anthology of Poetry (Shorter Ed)	British & American
Anonymous	Beowulf	British, c. 700
Anonymous	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	British, c. 1350-1400
Geoffrey Chaucer	Canterbury Tales	British, 1387 - 1400
Dante	Inferno	Italian, c. 1320
Homer	The Odyssey	Greek, c. 9th C. BCE
John Milton	Paradise Lost	British, 1667
Virgil	The Aeneid	Italian, c. 18 BCE
Walt Whitman	Leaves of Grass	American, 1855
Miscellaneous		
Aristotle	Poetics	Greek, 4th C. BCE
Saint Augustine	Confessions	Italian, 397-401
	Bible (esp. King James Version)	
Charles Darwin	Origin of the Species	British, 1859
Ralph Waldo Emerson	"The American Scholar"	American, 1837
Benjamin Franklin	Autobiography	American, 1771
Sigmund Freud	Civilization and Its Discontents	German, 1930
Edith Hamilton	Mythology	American, 1940
Niccolò Machiavelli	The Prince	Italian, 1532
Karl Marx	Communist Manifesto	German, 1848
Michel de Montaigne	Selected Essays	French, 1580
Plato	Republic	Greek, c. 370 BCE
Henry David Thoreau	Walden	American, 1854