

Mr. Isom's Recommended Reading List for High School Students

Arranged in approximate order of student appeal

Demian—Herman Hesse A coming of age novel about a German boy struggling to find his own path in a world of black and white values.

My Name is Asher Lev—Chaim Potok A Jewish boy's conflict with his Hasidic culture and need to create art. Similar to *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*.

"As an artist you are responsible to no one and to nothing, except to yourself and to the truth as you see it."

Dandelion Wine—Ray Bradbury Ray Bradbury’s autobiography of sorts; the summer it all changed for Douglas Spaulding and he “knew he was alive.”

The Little Prince--Saint Exupery Delightful quintessentially French children's story (more for adolescents and adults, though!) of a little prince who comes to earth to share the meaning of life with a pilot stranded in the Sahara. "Grownups never understand anything for themselves."

The Tao of Pooh—Benjamin Hoff Taoist philosophy taught through Winnie the Pooh stories. "Pooh, the Uncarved Block, is able to accomplish what he does because he is simpleminded."

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance--Hirsig Philosophical trek across America. "The real evil isn't the objects of technology but the tendency of technology to isolate people into lonely objectivity"

The Sea Wolf—Jack London A classic adventure story from Jack London that leans to the philosophical side—debate of Nihilism between a sturdy sea captain and an aristocratic literary critic. “He was not immoral, but merely unmoral.”

Wuthering Heights—Emily Bronte The classic Romantic novel. “He’s more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same.” “If you ever looked at me once with what I know is in you, I would be your slave.”

Catcher in the Rye--J.D. Salinger A must read novel of a disillusioned teenager coming to grips with the unfairness of life and the struggle to find beauty and meaning when innocence is lost. Similar to *The Fault in Our Stars*.

1984--Orwell A stark and fascinating portrayal of dystopian life.
"Big Brother is watching" "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four"

<i>The Education of Little Tree</i> --Carter	Poignant story of Native-American boy discovering his cultural roots and true self
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The Grapes of Wrath—John Steinbeck A must-read depiction of the “down-and-out” struggling through the Depression and finding solace in the Family of Man. “Whenever they’s a fight so hungry people can eat, I’ll be there.”

The Elegance of the Hedgehog--Muriel Barbery

The Brothers Karamazov--Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Hamlet, Macbeth--William Shakespeare