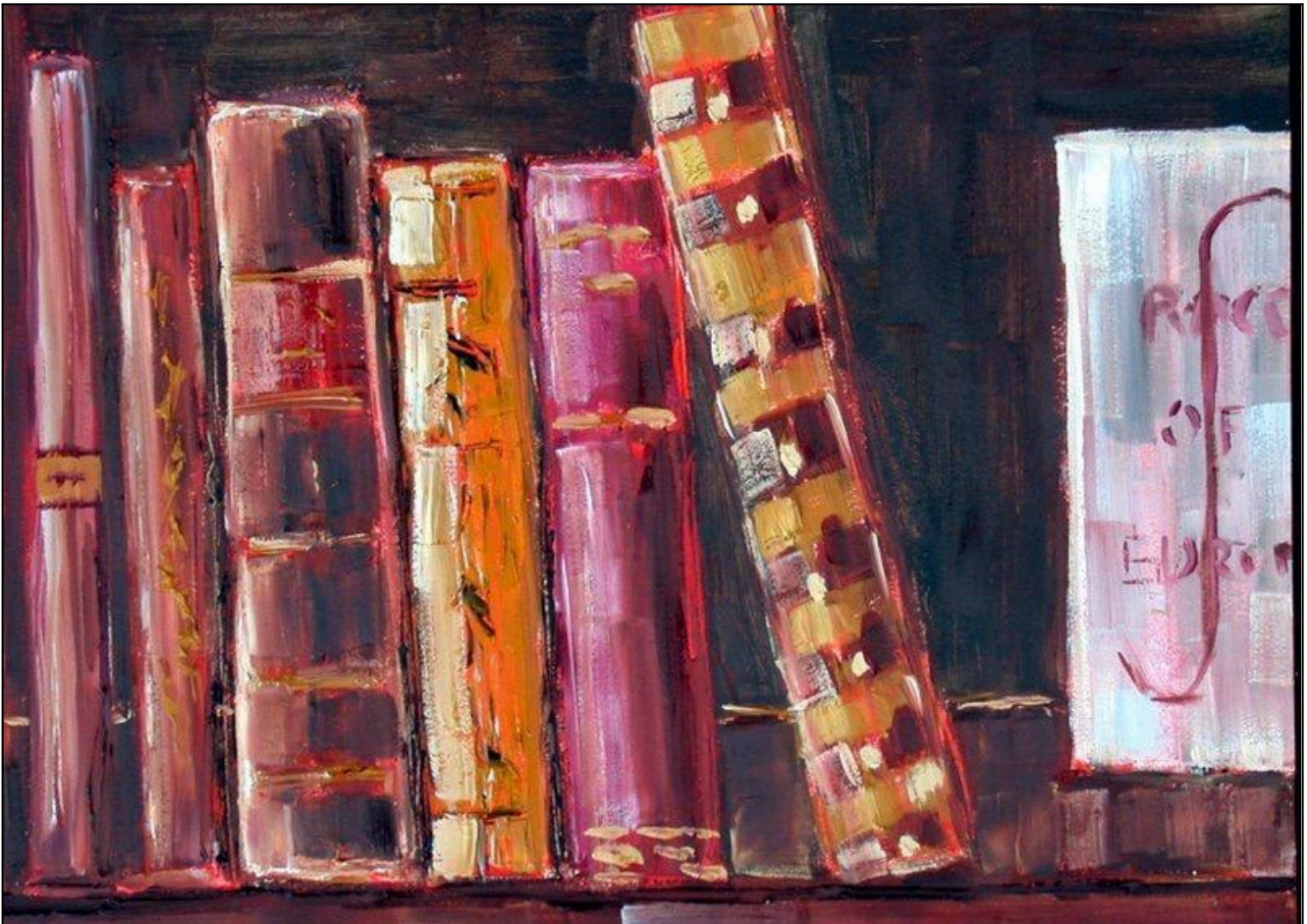

Reading List

IB Language & Literature



ADICHI, CHIMAMANDA NGOZI. *Half of a Yellow Sun*. 2007. Historical Fiction. With effortless grace, celebrated author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie illuminates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in southeastern Nigeria during the late 1960s. We experience this tumultuous decade alongside five unforgettable characters: Ugwu, a thirteen-year-old houseboy who works for Odenigbo, a university professor full of revolutionary zeal; Olanna, the professor's beautiful young mistress who has abandoned her life in Lagos for a dusty town and her lover's charm; and Richard, a shy young Englishman infatuated with Olanna's willful twin sister Kainene. *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a tremendously evocative novel of the promise, hope, and disappointment of the Biafran war.

ATWOOD, MARGARET. *The Handmaid's Tale*. 1985. Dystopian Fiction. Set in a near-future New England, in a totalitarian theocracy that has overthrown the United States government, the novel explores themes of women in subjugation and the various means by which they gain individualism and independence.

AUSTEN, JANE. *Sense & Sensibility*, *Mansfield Park*, *Persuasion*, *Emma*, or *Northanger Abbey* (NOT *Pride & Prejudice*, as this is read in year 1)

BENIOFF, DAVID. *City of Thieves*. 2009. During the Nazis' brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible. By turns insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, the New York Times bestseller *City of Thieves* is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and an intimate coming-of-age story with an utterly contemporary feel for how boys become men.

BRADBURY, RAY. *Fahrenheit 451*. 1953. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known

BRONTË, CHARLOTTE. *Jane Eyre*. 1847. Classic Fiction. Widely regarded as a revolutionary novel, Brontë's masterpiece introduced the world to a radical new type of heroine, one whose defiant virtue and moral courage departed sharply from the more acquiescent and malleable female characters of the day. Passionate, dramatic, and surprisingly modern, *Jane Eyre* endures as one of the world's most beloved novels.

BRONTË, EMILY. *Wuthering Heights*. 1847. Classic Fiction. Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of his landlord, the somber Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of tragedy, terror, and hatred on the Yorkshire moors, and much later observes that peace is restored to the conflict at last.

CALLAHAN, PATTI. *Once Upon a Wardrobe*. 2021. Historical Fiction. Megs Devonshire sets out to fulfill her younger brother George's last wish by uncovering the truth behind his favorite story. The answer provides hope, healing, and a magical journey for anyone whose life has ever been changed by a book.

CAMUS, ALBERT. *The Fall*. 1956. Fiction. A philosophical novel set in Amsterdam, consisting of a series of dramatic monologues by the self-proclaimed "judge-penitent" Jean-Baptiste Clamence, as he reflects upon his life to a stranger.

CARAWAY, KRISTIN. *When the Bird Sings*. 2013. Historical Fiction.

Arrested for crimes of treason, these five women meet on a train bound for the hell that is Auschwitz. Despite their varying backgrounds, philosophies, and beliefs, the fellow prisoners discover they are united by something more powerful than all of their differences: the tenacity of the human spirit. In a place of constant torment and struggle, they must find the faith and hope to declare freedom and victory...even while it is still dark. (Available online at Amazon for Kindle, iTunes or iPhone for iBook, Barnes and Noble for Nook, or for your Tablet or from Mrs. Caraway in hard copy).



CHRISTIE, AGATHA. All Titles. Mystery.

CONRAD, JOSEPH. *Heart of Darkness*. 1899. Classic Fiction. Dark allegory describes the narrator's journey up the Congo River and his meeting with, and fascination by, Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious personage who dominates the unruly inhabitants of the region. Masterly blend of adventure, character development, and psychological penetration. Considered by many to be Conrad's finest, most enigmatic story.

DE'ROSNAY, TATIANA. *Sarah's Key*. 2010. Historical and Contemporary Fiction. Sarah's Key follows a journalist's present-day investigation into the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup of Jews in

German-occupied Paris in 1942. It tells the story of a young girl's experiences during and after these events, illustrating the participation of the French bureaucracy as well as French citizens hiding and protecting Sarah from the French authorities



DICKENS, CHARLES. *A Tale of Two Cities*. 1859. Historical Fiction/Classic Fiction. This story of the French Revolution follows a classic band of complex Dickens characters.

DOSTOYEVSKY, FYODOR. *Crime and Punishment*. 1866. Originally published in installments, *Crime and Punishment* focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov, an impoverished St. Petersburg ex-student who formulates and executes a plan to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker for her money. Raskolnikov argues that with the pawnbroker's money, he can perform good deeds to counterbalance the act, while ridding the world of a worthless parasite. The murder is also committed to test Raskolnikov's hypothesis that some people are naturally able and have the right to murder. Despite his rationale, Raskolnikov struggles with extreme guilt and fear once the act is committed

DUMAS, ALEXANDRE. *The Three Musketeers.* 1844. **Classic Fiction.** Set in France from 1625 to 1628, the classic tale recounts the adventures of the brave d'Artagnan after he leaves home to become a musketeer. The novel follows the young man and his companions along their journey as they encounter a slew of mysterious, cunning, and intriguing characters.

The Count of Monte Cristo. **Classic Fiction.** Set against the turbulent years of the Napoleonic era, Alexandre Dumas's thrilling adventure story is one of the most widely read romantic novels of all time. In it, the dashing young hero, Edmond Dantès, is betrayed by his enemies and thrown into a secret dungeon in the Chateau d'If -- doomed to spend his life in a dank prison cell. The story of his long, intolerable years in captivity, his miraculous escape, and his carefully wrought revenge creates a dramatic tale of mystery and intrigue and paints a vision of France -- a dazzling, dueling, exuberant France -- that has become immortal.

EVANS, VIRGINIA. *The Correspondent.* 2025. **Contemporary Women's Fiction.** Sybil Van Antwerp has, throughout her life, used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter. Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness. Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be “a very small thing,” but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

FAULKNER, WILLIAM. *The Sound and the Fury.* 1929. **Fiction.** *The Sound and the Fury* is the tragedy of the Compson family, featuring some of the most memorable characters in literature: beautiful, rebellious Caddy; the manchild Benjy; haunted, neurotic Quentin; Jason, the brutal cynic; and Dilsey, their black servant. Their lives fragmented and harrowed by history and legacy, the characters' voices and actions mesh to create what is arguably Faulkner's masterpiece and one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century.

FORD, JAMIE. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet.* 2009. **Historical Fiction.** The story is told in two parallel storylines, one following 12-year-old Henry Lee's experiences during the Second World War, and the other depicting Henry 44 years later as a widower with a college-aged son.

GOLDEN, ARTHUR. *Memoirs of a Geisha.* 1997. **Historical Fiction.** The novel, told in first-person perspective, tells the fictional story of a geisha working in Kyoto, Japan, before and after World War II. Captivating.

HANNAH, KRISTIN. *The Nightingale.* (2014) **Fiction.** Viann and Isabelle have always been close despite their differences. Younger, bolder sister Isabelle lives in Paris, while Viann lives a quiet, content life in the French countryside with her husband, Antoine, and their daughter. When World War II strikes and Antoine is sent off to fight, Viann and Isabelle's father sends Isabelle to help her older sister cope. As the war progresses, it's not only the sisters' relationship that is tested but also their strength and individual sense of right and wrong. With life as they know it changing in unbelievably

horrific ways, Viann and Isabelle will find themselves facing frightening situations and responding in ways they never thought possible as bravery and resistance take different forms in each of their actions.

Winter Garden. (2010) Fiction. Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard; the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now offers no comfort to her daughters. As children, the only connection between them was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told the girls at night. On his deathbed, their father extracts a promise from the women in his life: the fairy tale will be told one last time—and all the way to the end. Thus begins an unexpected journey into the truth of Anya's life in war-torn Leningrad, more than five decades ago. Alternating between the past and present, Meredith and Nina will finally hear the singular, harrowing story of their mother's life, and what they learn is a secret so terrible and terrifying that it will shake the very foundation of their family and change who they believe they are.

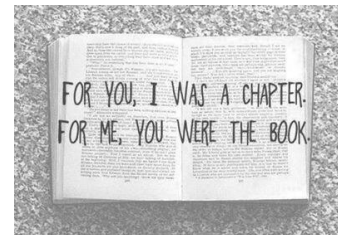
The Women. (2024). Fiction. *Women can be heroes.* When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dared to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era

HARDY, THOMAS. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles.* (1891) Classic Fiction. This is the titular story of Teresa “Tess” Durbeyfield, the oldest child of John and Joan Durbeyfield. The Durbeyfields are a poor family living in rural England who are led to believe by a local parson that they may actually be related to the d'Urbervilles, a noble Norman family. Trying to capitalize on this knowledge, the Durbeyfields send a reluctant Tess to work at the d'Urberville's estate, a rural mansion in the nearby town of Trantridge. Tess secures a position as a poultry keeper on the estate when she catches the interest of the family's libertine son, Alec. Tess dislikes Alec but endures his unwanted advances in order to help her family, a compromise that will ultimately lead to her ruin. Because it challenged the sexual morals of late Victorian England, “Tess of the d'Urbervilles” was harshly criticized following its initial publication; since that time, it has come to be regarded by many as Thomas Hardy's fictional masterpiece. (*Scholars may also read **Jude the Obscure** by Thomas Hardy.*)

HAWKINS, PAULA. *Girl on the Train.* (2015) Fiction. A psychological thriller that offers the mystery of an unreliable narrator, and a non-chronological working out of a murder...

HAWTHORNE, NATHANIEL. *The Scarlet Letter.* (1850) Fiction. An "A" for "adultery" marks Hester Prynne as an outcast from the society of colonial Boston. Although forced by the puritanical

town fathers to wear a bright red badge of shame, Hester steadfastly resists their efforts to discover the identity of her baby's father. The return of her long-absent spouse brings new pressure on the young mother, as the aggrieved husband undertakes a long-term plot to reveal Hester's partner in adultery and force him to share her disgrace. Masterful in its symbolism and compelling in its character studies, Nathaniel Hawthorne's tale of punishment and reconciliation examines the concepts of sin, guilt, and pride. *The Scarlet Letter* was published to immediate acclaim in 1850. Its timeless exploration of moral and spiritual issues, along with its philosophical and psychological insights, keeps it ever relevant for students of American literature and lovers of fiction.



HEMINGWAY, ERNEST. All Titles. Classic Fiction.

HOSSEINI, KHALED. *The Mountains Echoed, The Kite Runner.* 2003. Fiction. (NOT *Thousand Splendid Suns*, as that is read in Year 2) Amazing, captivating stories that weave together with the setting in Afghanistan and span over generations.

HUGO, VICTOR. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* or *Les Misérables.* Classic Fiction.

JOYCE, JAMES. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.* 1916. Classic Fiction. This novel/memoir deserves its status as a classic. It's a touching and intimate look into the heart and mind of the artist as he grows from a sensitive, open child, through his alienated youth, into a creative adult.

KING, STEPHEN. *The Stand.* 1990. Dystopian Fiction. An apocalyptic vision of a world blasted by plague and embroiled in an elemental struggle between good and evil.

KINGSOLVER, BARBARA. *The Poisonwood Bible.* 1998. Fiction. An interesting narrative form: it is a tale told from multiple perspectives. A missionary family, the Prices, who in 1959 moved from the U.S. state of Georgia to the village of Kilanga in the Belgian Congo, close to the Kwilu River.

LEVI, ALLEN. *Theo of Golden.* 2025. Literary Fiction. One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered. A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.

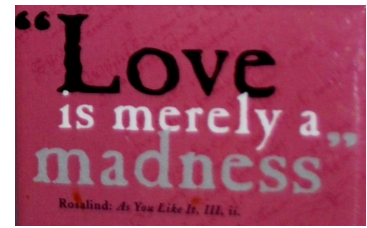
LONDON, JACK. *The Call of the Wild.* 1903. Adventure. The story opens at a ranch in Santa Clara Valley, California, when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska. He becomes progressively feral in the harsh environment, where he is forced to fight to survive and dominate other dogs. By the end, he sheds the veneer of civilization and relies on primordial instinct and learned experience to emerge as a leader in the wild.

MARQUEZ, GABRIEL GARCIA. *Love in the Time of Cholera.* 2007. Historical Fiction. In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses

to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career, he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.

MARTIN, MADELINE. *The Last Bookshop in London*. 2021.

Historical Fiction. An irresistible tale that showcases the transformative power of literacy, reminding us of the hope and sanctuary our neighborhood bookstores offer during the perilous trials of war and unrest.



MCCULLOUGH, COLLEEN. *The Thornbirds*. 1977. Historical

Fiction. With over 10 million copies sold worldwide, here is the towering epic about three generations of a remarkable family in the Australian outback. This is the story of the Cleary family, originally from Ireland, who emigrated first to New Zealand, and early on, to Australia. The young Cleary daughter, Meggie, falls in love with the local Catholic priest, Ralph de Briccasart, who is a good and ambitious man.

MITCHELL, MARGARET. *Gone with the Wind*. 1936. Historical Fiction. *Gone With the Wind*—winner of the Pulitzer Prize and one of the bestselling novels of all time—has been heralded by readers everywhere as The Great American Novel. This is the tale of Scarlett O’Hara, the spoiled, manipulative daughter of a wealthy plantation owner, who arrives at young womanhood just in time to see the Civil War forever change her way of life. A sweeping story of tangled passion and courage

MORRISON, TONI. *Beloved*. Historical Fiction. *Beloved* is a 1987 novel by the American writer Toni Morrison. Set after the American Civil War, it is inspired by the story of an African-American slave, Margaret Garner, who escaped slavery in Kentucky in late January 1856 by fleeing to Ohio, a free state.

O’BRIEN, TIM. *The Things They Carried*. Contemporary Fiction. A ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O’Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at age 43. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing, it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear, and longing.

O’FARRELL MAGGIE. *Hamnet*. 2021. Historical Fiction. England, 1580: The Black Death creeps across the land, an ever-present threat, infecting the healthy, the sick, the old, and the young alike. The end of days is near, but life always goes on. A young Latin tutor—penniless and bullied by a violent father—falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family’s land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon, she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is just taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever. *Hamnet* is mesmerizing, seductive, impossible to put down—a magnificent leap forward from one of our most gifted novelists.

ORRINGER, JULIA. *The Invisible Bridge*. 2010. **Historical Fiction.** A grand love story and an epic tale of three brothers whose lives are torn apart by war.

ORWELL, GEORGE. *Animal Farm* and *1984*.
Dystopian/Allegorical Fiction.

OWENS, DELIA. *Where the Crawdads Sing*. **Mystery. 2018.** At once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder, Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps...

PLATH, SYLVIA. *The Bell Jar*. 1963. **Fiction/Autobiography.** A largely autobiographic novel, *The Bell Jar* is a story of depression and mental illness.



QUINN, KATE. *The Alice Network*. 2017. **Historical Fiction.** In this enthralling novel from New York Times bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

RAND, AYN. *Atlas Shrugged*. 1957. **Dystopian/Mystery.** The book depicts a dystopian United States, wherein many of society's most prominent and successful industrialists abandon their fortunes and the nation itself in response to aggressive new regulations, whereupon most vital industries collapse.

ROHINTON, MISTRY. *A Fine Balance*. 1997. **Contemporary Fiction.** This magnificent novel captures all the cruelty and corruption, dignity and heroism, of India. The time is 1975. The place is an unnamed city by the sea. The government has just declared a State of Emergency, in whose upheavals four strangers—a spirited widow, a young student uprooted from his idyllic hill station, and two tailors who have fled the caste violence of their native village—will be thrust together, forced to share one cramped apartment and an uncertain future. As the characters move from distrust to friendship and from friendship to love, *A Fine Balance* creates an enduring panorama of the human spirit in an inhuman state.

ROY, ARUNDHATI. *The God of Small Things*. 2008. Roy's modern classic is equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama. The seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to illicit liaisons and to accidental and intentional tragedies, exposing "big things [that] lurk unsaid" in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest. Lush, lyrical, and unnerving, *The God of Small Things* is an award-winning landmark that launched an esteemed career for its author in fiction and political commentary that continues unabated.

SALINGER, JD. *Catcher in the Rye*. 1951. **Classic Fiction.** A controversial novel originally published for adults, it has since become popular with adolescent readers for its themes of teenage angst and alienation

SCHWAB, VICTORIA E. *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*. 2020. **Fantasy/Sci-Fi Historical Fiction.** The story begins in France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever, only to be cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world.

SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM. *Hamlet* (tragedy), *Much Ado About Nothing* (comedy), *As You Like It* (comedy), *The Winter's Tale* (tragicomedy), *Henry V* (Historical)

STEINBECK, JOHN. Fiction. All Titles.

STOCKET, KATHRYN. *The Help*. 2009. **Historical Fiction.** The story of life in a Southern town before the Civil Rights Movement, as told through the eyes of the help and those they serve.

TEN BOOM, CORRIE. *The Hiding Place*. 1964.

Autobiography/Classic Nonfiction. An amazing real life account of one family's experiences during the German occupation of Holland demonstrates the author's stalwart Christian faith that perseveres with hope in the face of horror and tragedy.

TOLKIEN, JRR. *The Hobbit* or any of *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. 1937-41. **Fantasy.**

TOLSTOY, LEO. *Anna Karenina*. 1877. **Classic Fiction.** Widely regarded as a pinnacle in realist fiction, Tolstoy considered *Anna Karenina* his first true novel, after he came to consider *War and Peace* to be more

than a novel. Fyodor Dostoyevsky declared it "flawless as a work of art." His opinion was shared by Vladimir Nabokov, who especially admired "the flawless magic of Tolstoy's style," and by William Faulkner, who described the novel as "the best ever written." [2] The novel remains popular, as demonstrated by a 2007 Time poll of 125 contemporary authors in which *Anna Karenina* was voted the "greatest book ever written." ***War and Peace*. 1869. Historical Fiction.** Epic in scale, regarded as one of the most important works of world literature. *War and Peace* delineates in graphic detail events surrounding the French invasion of Russia, and the impact of the Napoleonic era on Tsarist society, as seen through the eyes of five Russian aristocratic families.

UNGER, LISA. *Confessions on the 7:45*. 2019. **Mystery/Thriller.** Selena Murphy is commuting home on the train when she strikes up a conversation with a beautiful stranger in the next seat. The woman introduces herself as Martha and soon confesses that she's been having an affair with her boss. Selena, in turn, confesses that she suspects her husband is cheating on her with the nanny. When the train arrives at Selena's station, the two women part ways, presumably never to meet again. Then, the nanny disappears. As Selena is pulled into the mystery of what happened and the fractures in her marriage grow deeper, she begins to wonder who Martha really was. But she is hardly prepared for what she'll discover...

VONNEGUT, KURT. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. 1969. **Satirical Novel** World War II experiences and journeys through time of a chaplain's assistant named Billy Pilgrim. It is generally recognized as

Vonnegut's most influential and popular work.[1] Vonnegut's use of the firebombing of Dresden as a central event makes the novel semi-autobiographical because he was present at the time.

WARD, JESMYN. *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. 2017. Coming of Age. In Jesmyn Ward's first novel since her National Book Award-winning *Salvage the Bones*, this singular American writer brings the archetypal road novel into rural twenty-first-century America. An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* journeys through Mississippi's past and present, examining the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power—and limitations—of family bonds.

WHITAKER, CHRIS *All the Colors of the Dark*. 2024. Thriller/Epic. From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *We Begin at the End* comes a soaring thriller and an epic love story that spans decades. The year 1975 was a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Mohammed Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. In the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges—Patch, a local boy with one eye, who saves the girl and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another. A missing-person mystery, a serial-killer thriller, a love story, and a unique twist in each, Chris Whitaker has written a novel about what lurks in the shadows of obsession and the blinding light of hope.

WILDE, OSCAR *The Importance of Being Earnest*. 1845. Comedy/Play or *Picture of Dorian Grey*. 1890. Dark, Dramatic Fiction.

WILLIAMS, TENNESSEE. *The Glass Menagerie*. 1944. Play. The play has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on Williams himself, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister Laura.

WOUK, HERMAN. *The Winds of War*. 1971. Historical Fiction. Like no other masterpiece of historical fiction, Herman Wouk's sweeping epic of World War II is the great novel of America's Greatest Generation. Wouk's spellbinding narrative captures the tide of global events and the drama, romance, heroism, and tragedy of World War II, immersing us in the lives of a single American family drawn into the war's maelstrom. *The Winds of War* and its sequel, *War and Remembrance*, stand as the crowning achievement of one of America's most celebrated storytellers.

ZUSAK, MARCUS. *The Book Thief*. Historical Fiction. (2005)
Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*. When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

