Roseburg High School AP/CC Reading List

Title available in digital format to read on multiple devices.

Title available in audio format to listen to on multiple devices.

Allende, Isabel (1942-)

The House Of The Spirits

Isabel Allende weaves a luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies. Here is patriarch Esteban, whose wild desires and political machinations are tempered only by his love for his ethereal wife, Clara, a woman touched by an otherworldly hand. Their daughter, Blanca, whose forbidden love for a man Esteban has deemed unworthy infuriates her father, yet will produce his greatest joy: his granddaughter Alba, a beautiful, ambitious girl who will lead the family and their country into a revolutionary future. The House of the Spirits is an enthralling saga that spans decades and lives, twining the personal and the political into an epic novel of love, magic, and fate.

Atwood, Margaret (1939-)

The Handmaid's Tale 🛭 🕠

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife. She may go out once a day to markets whose signs are now pictures because women are not allowed to read. She must pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, for in a time of declining birth rates her value lies in her fertility, and failure means exile to the dangerously polluted Colonies. Offred can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Now she navigates the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules. (Mature content—sex and violence)

Bronte, Emily (1818-1848)

Wuthering Heights 🛭 🕠

A brooding Yorkshire tale of a love that is stronger than death, it is also a fierce vision of metaphysical passion in which heaven and hell, nature and society, and dynamic and passive forces are powerfully juxtaposed.

Camus, Albert (1913-1960)

The Stranger 📮

An ordinary man is unwittingly caught up in a senseless murder in Algeria. The story reveals the ABSURD in the condition of man, who feels himself a stranger in his world.

Conrad, Joseph (1857-1924)

Heart of Darkness

In 1890 Marlowe sails down the Congo River in search of Kurtz, a fabled fur trading company agent who has, according to rumors, become insane in the jungle isolation. The cruel colonial exploitation of the natives of Belgian Congo is described as the narrator explores the primitive, subconscious heart of man. (Mature content—violence)

Dostoyevski, Fyodor (1821-1881)

Crime and Punishment

A psychological novel of a sensitive intellectual who is driven by poverty to believe himself exempt from moral law. The poor student Raskolnikoff murders an old moneylender and her sister, and after a lengthy investigation and his resultant physical and mental deterioration, a saintly prostitute, Sonya, convinces him to confess.

Ellison, Ralph (1914-1994)

Invisible Man 🛭 🕠



The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be. The book is a passionate and witty tour de force of style, strongly influenced by T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land, Joyce, and Dostoevsky.

Faulkner, William (1897-1962)

The Sound and the Fury 🛭

A novel about the decay of a once proud and aristocratic southern white family. Retells the tragic times of the Compson family, including beautiful, rebellious Caddy; man-child Benjy; haunted, neurotic Quentin; Jason, the brutal cynic; and Daisy, their Black servant.

Flaubert, Gustave (1821-1880)

Madame Bovary

This classic of realism tells of the decline and fall of a weak woman. Emma Bovary becomes bored with her life as the wife of a village doctor and embarks on an affair. The novel's subject, the life of an ordinary woman, and its technique, the amassing of precise detail, make this one of the crowning works in the development of the novel.

Hardy, Thomas (1840-1928)

The Return of the Native

The native of the title is Clym Yeobright who, tired of shallow city life, returns from Paris to open a school on Egdon Heath. In spite of the opposition of his mother, he marries Eustacia Vye, a passionate, pleasure-loving girl who hopes to persuade him to return to Paris. Her love affair with another man leads to many tragic events.

Hemingway, Ernest (1899-1961)

The Sun Also Rises

A story of the "Lost Generation" of expatriate Americans and British who had fought in France during World War I. Jake is wildly in love with Brett Ashley, aristocratic and irresistibly beautiful, but with an abandoned, sensuous nature that she cannot change. When the couple drifts to Spain to the dazzle of the fiesta and the heady atmosphere of the bullfight, their affair is strained by new passions, new jealousies, and Jake must finally learn that he will never possess the woman he loves. (Mature content—alcohol abuse and some violence)

Hesse, Herman (1877-1962)

Siddhartha 🛂

Set in India, a hero, Siddhartha, endowed with all the virtues, goes through the fire of various experiences and tasted pleasures to emerge to a state of wisdom. This book blends elements of psychoanalysis and Asian religions to probe an Indian aristocrat's efforts to renounce sensual and material pleasures and discover ultimate spiritual truths. The parallels with Buddha give this story a legendary and symbolic quality.

Hosseini, Khaled (1965-) **The Kite Runner**

Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official. This book traces Afghan history from the demise of the monarchy through the atrocities of present day. (Mature content—violence and language)

Hugo, Victor (1802-1885)

Les Miserables 🛛 🕠

The story of Jean Valjean, jailed for 19 years for stealing bread and pursued by the police agent, Javert. He risks his life to take care of a motherless young girl during the first half of the 19th century French Revolution.

Hurston, Zora Neale (1891-1960)

Their Eyes Were Watching God 👨 🎧

The novel narrates main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny." Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel was initially poorly received for its rejection of racial uplift literary prescriptions. Today, it has come to be regarded as a seminal work in both African-American literature and women's literature.

Jones, Edward P. (1951-) **The Known World**

Henry Townsend, a African farmer and former slave, is befriended by the most powerful man in antebellum Virginia's Manchester County and becomes proprietor of his own plantation, as well as of his own slaves.

Joyce, James (1882-1941)

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

An autobiographical novel depicting the childhood, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Dedalus, later one of the leading characters in *Ulysses*. Stephen's growing self-awareness as an artist forces him to reject the whole narrow world in which he has been brought up. Rather than following a clear narrative progression, the book revolves around experiences that are crucial to Stephen's development as an artist and are revealed using the Stream of Consciousness technique.

Koestler, Arthur (1905-1983)

Darkness at Noon

An aging revolutionary is imprisoned by his own political party and forced to confess to crimes he never committed. Where once he saw promise for humanity, he now sees only darkness. In this satirical and powerful novel about the abuses and brutalities of a totalitarian system, Koestler graphically conveys human helplessness in the face of the invasion of the mind by the police state.

Malamud, Bernard (1914-1986)

The Assistant

Frank, a troubled, somewhat desperate, Italian-American works long hours in the grocery store of a struggling Jewish family in a Brooklyn neighborhood. He develops a secret passion for his employer's attractive daughter as his past criminal activity catches up to him.

Maughman, W. Somerset (1874-1965)

Of Human Bondage 🛭

Philip Carey, a handicapped orphan, is brought up by a self-indulgent Victorian clergyman. Shedding his religious faith as a young man, he begins to study art in Paris, but finally returns to London to qualify as a doctor. As a young man struggling for self-realization, he is caught up in a destructive love affair.

McCarthy, Cormac (1933-) *All the Pretty Horses*

The national bestseller and the first volume in the *Border Trilogy, All the Pretty Horses* is the tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself. With two companions, he sets off for Mexico on a sometimes idyllic, sometimes comic journey to a place where dreams are paid for in blood.

Orwell, George (1903-1950)

1984 🛛 🕠

In a society of the future, individual privacy is invaded as the "Thought Police" persuade the people that ignorance is strength and war is peace. Winston Smith becomes involved in a forbidden love affair and joins the underground to resist the mind control. (Mature content—violence)

Plath, Sylvia (1932-1963)

The Bell Jar 💈 🎧

Chronicles the mental breakdown of Esther Greenwood—a brilliant, beautiful, talented and successful young writer who finally succumbs to madness when the world around her begins to falter.

Silko, Leslie Marmon (1948-)

Ceremony

Ceremony follows the troubles of Tayo, a half-white, half-Laguna man, as he struggles to cope with *battle fatigue* after surviving World War II and witnessing the death of his cousin Rocky during the Bataan Death March of 1942.

After spending several months recovering from injuries sustained during his captivity at a VA Hospital in Los Angeles, California, Tayo returns home to his family's home at Laguna Pueblo. Tayo suffers from increasing mental instability and turns to alcoholism to escape his inner turmoil. Tayo eventually turns to traditional pueblo spirituality and ceremony as a source of healing.

Thackeray, William Makepeace (1811-1863)

Vanity Fair

The classic story of an unscrupulous heroine and her rise to fame and fortune. Becky Sharp and her husband stand in contrast to the lives of Dobbin and Amelia in this revelation of societal classes.

Tolstoy, Count Leo (1828-1910)

War and Peace 💈

Tolstoy's masterwork provides an epic picture of the invasion of Russia by Napoleon and his army and the Russian resistance to the invaders. Over five hundred characters, all carefully rendered, populate the pages of the novel. Every social level, from Napoleon himself to the peasant Karatayev, is represented. Interwoven with the story of the war are narrations of the lives of several main characters who progress from youthful uncertainties and searching toward a more mature understanding of life.