

English 3AP  
American Literature  
Outside Reading List

Fiction

1. THE SKETCHBOOK – Washington Irving (From these masterpieces in miniature have emerged such universal figures of American fiction and fantasy as Rip Van Winkle, Ichabod Crane, and the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.)
2. THE PIONEERS – James Fenimore Cooper (In this classic novel, Cooper writes of the conflicts within an 18<sup>th</sup> Century American settlement, focusing primarily on the contrast between the natural codes of the hunter and woodsman Natty Bumppo and the more rigid structure of law needed by a more complex society.)
3. THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS – James Fenimore Cooper
4. THE PRAIRIE – James Fenimore Cooper (In flight from the ever-encroaching forces of civilization, the aging hero Natty Bumppo journeyed westward seeking to end his day in the still-virgin wilderness of the Great Plains. However, the conflict emerges as civilization catches up with Bumppo.)
5. THE DEERSLAYER – James Fenimore Cooper (At Lake Otsego, during the French and Indian Wars, great frontiersman Natty Bumppo forsakes his love to come to the aid of Thomas Hutter, a trapper under the attack of the Iroquois.)
6. THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES – Nathaniel Hawthorne (During 17<sup>th</sup> Century America, to gain Matthew Maule's land, Thomas Pyncheon accuses Maule of witchcraft. At the moment of his execution, Maule places a curse on the Pyncheon family that supposedly reaches far into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century—the time period when Hawthorne writes the novel.)
7. THE BLITHEDALE ROMANCE – Nathaniel Hawthorne (A novel which shows the attempt of some 19<sup>th</sup> Century characters to establish a utopian society—this is based on Hawthorne's own experiences with such a society called Brook Farm.)
8. Selected stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne
9. THE MARBLE FAUN – Nathaniel Hawthorne (Set in Rome, this novel is concerned with the nature of transgression and guilt. A murder, motivated by love, affects not only Donatello, the murderer, but his beloved Miriam and their friends Hilda and Kenyon.)
10. MOBY DICK – Herman Melville [2 books] (This is the classic American novel about Ahab's obsessive search not only for the great white whale, but for some reason to explain the nature of the universe. The novel also deals with the young Ishmael's initiation into both adult life and the importance of brotherhood.)
11. THE CONFIDENCE MAN – Herman Melville (This is the story of a crook or "con" man traveling on a steamboat on the Mississippi River. This "con" man makes his living by deceiving people. However, because this particular crook is actually the devil in disguise, there is an unusual twist to the story.)
12. UNCLE TOM'S CABIN – Harriet Beecher Stowe [2 books] (Lincoln considered this to be the book that may have started the Civil War. It portrays the terror of slavery, whether focused in the border states or in the deep South. Often considered controversial, the book also deals with religious and feminist issues.)

13. **ROUGHING IT** – Mark Twain (In his youth Mark Twain found himself adrift as a naïve person in the Wild West—working as a civil servant, gold prospector, reporter, and traveling lecturer. This is the record of those early years.)
14. **LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI** – Mark Twain (Growing up in the sleepy town of Hannibal, Missouri, Mark Twain dreamed gaudy, romantic dreams about the splendid, smoke-plumed riverboats that swept past, freighted with adventure and unimaginable glamour. This is Twain's story of his youthful days as a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River.)
15. **A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT** – Mark Twain (Hank Morgan brings 19<sup>th</sup> Century technology to the ancient world of King Arthur. The results prove to be interesting and destructive.)
16. **WORK** – Louisa May Alcott (This novel is both an exploration of Alcott's personal conflicts and a social critique, examining women's independence, the moral significance of labor, and the goals to which a woman can aspire. Influenced by Transcendentalism and by the women's rights movement, it affirms the possibility of a feminized utopian society.)
17. **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** – Henry James [2 books] (This is the story of Isabel Archer, a young American woman who has just received a large inheritance. She travels to Europe where her innocence and naivete is challenge by a sophisticated couple who want her money.)
18. **THE BOSTONIANS** – Henry James [2 books] (Verena Tarrant, a girl with extraordinary public speaking gifts, acquires two admirers of very different stamp: Olive Chancellor, inheritor of a stern puritan tradition and devotee of radical feminism; and Basil Ransom, a Confederate veteran of the Civil War, from which he has salvaged little save rigid views concerning society and women's place therein. The novel reflects a society whose moral and cultural values are failing to survive the new dawn of democracy.)
19. **THE RISE OF SILAS LAPHAM** – William Dean Howells (This novel mirrors the rise of the newly rich and socially aspiring families in the years following the Civil War—years in which the nation was to be transformed by the rapid growth of its industry and business. Silas Lapham gains financial success manufacturing paint but his family is excluded from Boston's high society crowd. Silas and his family desperately want to fit in high society.)
20. **A HAZARD OF NEW FORTUNES** – William Dean Howells (This novel centers upon the conflict between a self-made millionaire and a fervent social revolutionary—a conflict in which a man of good will futilely attempts to act as mediator, only to be forced himself into a crisis of conscience.)
21. **A COUNTRY DOCTOR** – Sarah Orne Jewett (Originally published in 1884, this is the story of a woman's independence and how she must choose between marriage to a highly attractive and eligible young bachelor and commitment to her vocation, that of a Maine country doctor.)
22. **THE COUNTRY OF THE POINTED FIRS** – Sarah Orne Jewett (In this novel we meet the people of Dunning's Landing, a small, coastal town in Maine. First the women: the wise herbalist Mrs. Todd, the independent Mrs. Blackett, the abandoned and reclusive Joanna. And then the occasional men appear, their conspicuous

- absence from these tales quietly symbolizing the abandoned coastline, the population depleted by a generation favoring the bustle of nearby cities and inland towns.)
23. Selected stories of Ambrose Bierce (These tales deal with soldiers during the Civil War and with bizarre, almost supernatural events.)
  24. THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE – Stephen Crane (Henry Fleming dreams of being a war hero and fighting for the North in the Civil War. He enlists and has to deal with events in the war that seems beyond his control.)
  25. THE DAMNATION OF THERON WARE – Harold Frederic (Through his involvement with three women, Theron Ware, a small-town late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Methodist minister finds that his abstract, absolute notions about himself and his world lead to doubt and confusion. Uncertain in his faith, Ware is alone and unprepared to meet the moral, scientific, and aesthetic amiguities of the new century.)
  26. LOOKING BACKWARD – Edward Bellamy (This is the prophetic novel of Edward Bellamy—written in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century—about a young Boston gentleman who is mysteriously transported from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century—from a world of war and want to a world of peace and plenty.)
  27. THE AWAKENING – Kate Chopin (Edna Pontellier, the heroine of this novel, is a young wife and mother who refuses to be caged by the props of domesticity. Defying the conventions of marriage, she claims for herself moral and erotic freedom.)
  28. McTEAGUE – Frank Norris (Of Norris’s novels, none shocked his reading public more than this one, and few works since have captured the seamy side of American urban life with such graphic immediacy as does this portrayal of human degradation in turn-of-the-century San Francisco. Heredity and environment play the role of fate in a tale that moves towards its harrowing conclusion with the grim power and inevitability of Classic tragedy.)
  29. THE OCTOPUS – Frank Norris [2 books] (Based on an actual, bloody dispute between wheat farmers and the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1880, THE OCTOPUS is a stunning novel of the waning days of the frontier West.)
  30. SISTER CARRIE – Theodore Dreiser [2 books] (Innocent, naïve Carrie comes to big city Chicago, hoping to find a place for herself. However, her previous moral codes disintegrate as Carrie learns how to adapt to the city and its view of success.)
  31. AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY – Theodore Dreiser [3 books] (On one level, AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY is the story of the corruption and destruction of one man, Clyde Griffiths, who forfeits his life in desperate pursuit of success. On a deeper, more profound level, however, the novel represents a massive portrayal of the society whose values both shape Clyde’s tawdry ambitions and seal his fate: it is an unsurpassed depiction of the harsh realities of American life and of the dark side of the American Dreams.)
  32. UP FROM SLAVERY – Booker T. Washington (Vividly recounting Washington’s life—his childhood as a slave, his struggle for education, his founding and presidency of the Tuskegee Institute, his meetings with the country’s leaders, UP FROM SLAVERY reveals the conviction he held that the black man’s salvation lay in education, industriousness, and self-reliance.)
  33. THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK – W.E.B. Du Bois (In a very personal document, Du Bois examines the veiled nature of black life and black “invisibility” within society. Believing that one can know the “soul” of a race by knowing the souls of

individuals, he seeks to establish the relations not only between blacks and whites but among blacks themselves—rich and poor, educated and uneducated—by describing his own encounters, from his upbringing in a northern city through his days at college, to his journeys through the South.)

34. **THE SEA WOLF** – Jack London (Strong, ruthless, fearless, Wolf Larsen is both the prototype of rugged individualism, a man possessed of a demonic will to power, and the negation of every civilized virtue. The perilous voyage of his ship, the seal-hunting *Ghost*, forms the background of a confrontation between two opposing views of life, a brutal drama played out to a harrowing conclusion.)
35. **MARTIN EDEN** – Jack London (This novel is set in San Francisco at the turn of the century and tells the story of a young seaman who struggles desperately to attain intellectual and social recognition.)
36. **THE HOUSE OF MIRTH** – Edith Wharton [2 books] (This is a novel centering on the personal tragedy of Lily Bart, broken by the inflexible standards of New York society in the early 1900's.)
37. **THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY** – Edith Wharton [2 books] (This is a novel of New York upper class society when the age of innocence was coming to an end. Undine Spragg will do anything to attain wealth and status.)
38. **SUMMER** – Edith Wharton (This book is named for what the author sees for that never-to-be-repeated period when romantic love seems to be “everything,” when there can be only one first romance—one beginning, one romantic initiation with its exhilarating illusion of unending ecstasy and unlimited opportunity.)
39. **THE AGE OF INNOCENCE** – Edith Wharton (Handsome, affluent, with great promise as a lawyer, Newland Archer's interest in his cold, beautiful, and conventional wife gradually fades. His attraction to Countess Ellen Olenska—bizarre and challenging, separated from her husband—becomes the single threat to his secure position in high society, and, at the same time, leads him to question the values of that society.)
40. **THE JUNGLE** – Upton Sinclair (This novel vividly depicts factory life in Chicago in the first years of the twentieth century. The horrors of the slaughter houses, their barbarous working conditions, the crushing poverty, the disease, the depravity, the despair—Sinclair reveals all through the eyes of Jurgis Rudkus, a young immigrant who has come to the New World to build a home for himself, his fiancée, and her family.)
41. **KING COAL** – Upton Sinclair (In this novel, Upton Sinclair powerfully condemns the inhuman treatment of the America's coal miners. Inspired by the tragic 1913 Colorado mine workers' strike that left fourteen women and children dead, this novel describes the transgression of industry against the physical and spiritual freedom of working people.)
42. **OIL!** – Upton Sinclair [2 books] (In this book Sinclair created a novel out of the oil scandals of the Harding administration, providing in the process a detailed picture of the development of the oil industry in Southern California. Bribery of public officials, class warfare, and international rivalry over oil production are the context for Sinclair's story of an independent oil developer and his son, whose sympathy with the oilfield workers fuels a running debate with his father.)

43. **THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EX-COLORED MAN** – James Weldon Johnson (This is a view from 1912 of the life of an African American, a “profound interpretation of his feeling towards the white man and towards the members of his own race.”)
44. **THE FORD** – Mary Austin [1 ½ books] (THE FORD is a revolutionary novel in which Mary Austin explores how battles over water and land use have shaped California’s history. In this political novel, Austin writes with her characteristic skepticism and idealism, mocking socialist slogans yet advocating communal responsibility based on her understanding of ecological interdependence and her respect for personal integrity.)
45. **MY ANTONIA** – Willa Cather (In this novel, her famous portrait of a pioneer woman, Willa Cather captured intact the strengths and passions of the early settlers in the Midwest, their spiritual attachment to the land they worked and came to love.)
46. **A LOST LADY** – Willa Cather ( This is the story of Mrs. Forrester, a woman whose decline takes her from being the member of an aristocratic railroad world to being a member of the village world of Sweet Water. She is twenty-five years younger than her husband and then a young man comes into her life.)
47. **LUCY GAYHEART** – Willa Cather (This is the story of the obscure life of a young girl who goes to Chicago to study music, falls in love with a middle-aged singer, knows a brief moment of deep contentment and then the pain of a separation that is final.)
48. **WINESBURG, OHIO** – Sherwood Anderson (This deals with the stories that George Willard, a newspaper reporter, sees in a small midwestern town. Willard witnesses the lives of eccentric, sometimes artistic, sometimes intelligent individuals who find it difficult to live in the small town of Winesburg, Ohio.)
49. **POOR WHITE** – Sherwood Anderson (In a small town in Ohio, a dreamy, rather ignorant “poor white” boy suddenly becomes a rich and famous inventor. This classic novel of Americana, first published in 1920, tells the story of the power unleashed by that happenstance—a force that overnight dotted a vast valley with cities, built a network of industry, made quick men rich and fearful men poor.)
50. **DEATH IN THE WOODS AND OTHER STORIES** – Sherwood Anderson
51. **MAIN STREET** – Sinclair Lewis (This is the story of Carol Kennicott’s attempt to bring art, culture, and a more dynamic view of life of life to a small town community.)
52. **BABBITT** – Sinclair Lewis (With his portrait of George F. Babbitt, the conniving, prosperous real-estate man from the town of Zenith, Sinclair Lewis created one of the ugliest, most convincing, figures in American fiction—the total conformist. Babbitt’s demons are power in his community and the self-esteem he can only receive from others.)
53. **ARROWSMITH** – Sinclair Lewis (Martin Arrowsmith’s singular devotion to science represents the life of an American whose work becomes his life. Forced to give up successive positions—instructor in medicine, small-town doctor, research pathologist—by obstacles ranging from public ignorance to the publicity-mindedness of a great foundation, Arrowsmith becomes virtually isolated as a seeker after truth.)
54. **ELMER GANTRY** – Sinclair Lewis [1 and ½ books] (The author’s portrait of a golden-tongued evangelist who rises to power within his church—a saver of souls

- who lives a life of hypocrisy, sensuality, and ruthless self-indulgence—is also the record of a period, a reign of grotesque vulgarity.)
55. **THE ENORMOUS ROOM** – e.e. Cummings (Although it reveals the filth and futility of war—WW I—piteously, it is not essentially a war novel; it is, rather, an affirmation of the aspirations and an interpretation of the thwarting of young men confronted by the fierce reality of battle, the taut periods of preparation for conflict and the grim aftermath of trial by fire.)
  56. **BABYLON REVISITED AND OTHER STORIES** – F. Scott Fitzgerald
  57. **TENDER IS THE NIGHT** – F. Scott Fitzgerald (Set in the French Riviera, this novel shows how one man deals with his wife’s emerging mental depression.)
  58. **THIS SIDE OF PARADISE** – F. Scott Fitzgerald (This is the story of a young college man and his times—prep school, Princeton, success and failure.)
  59. **BARREN GROUND** – Ellen Glasgow (Set in Virginia, the novel evokes the irony of change in the rural South. Dorinda Oakley is a passionate, intelligent, and independent young woman who struggles to define herself in a world she does not choose.)
  60. **VIRGINIA** – Ellen Glasgow (From the dutiful, self-abnegating idealism of her youth, through her “formal” education, marriage, children, and an enlightening friendship, Virginia Pendleton’s disillusion with the life she has been trained to lead emerges amidst the trying sexual and racial politics of the turn-of-the-century American South.)
  61. **THE SUN ALSO RISES** – Ernest Hemingway (Set in Europe after WW I, this novel deals with the so-called “lost generation”—a generation disillusioned by the war and struggling to gain a sense of purpose. Eventually, bullfighting becomes a key aspect of the novel.)
  62. **A FAREWELL TO ARMS** – Ernest Hemingway (This is the story of a nurse and the man she loves during WW I. The novel deals with their attempt to find a peaceful world separate from the fury of the war.)
  63. **FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS** – Ernest Hemingway [1 and ½ books] (Recurrent themes of bravery and cowardice, freedom and responsibility, love and death are woven into this timeless epic—and love story—of the Spanish Civil War.)
  64. **THE SOUND AND THE FURY** – William Faulkner [2 books] (This is a novel dealing with the degenerate Compson family, once distinguished Southern aristocrats in Jefferson, Mississippi. The vast lands of the plantation have now been turned into a golf course.)
  65. **LIGHT IN AUGUST** – William Faulkner [2 books] (Although this book opens with a young woman walking into town barefoot and pregnant, ultimately, it focuses on Joe Christmas, a man who is obsessed by the fact that he does not know whether he is black or white. The novel illustrates the problem of the South in dealing with racial prejudice.)
  66. **INTRUDER IN THE DUST** – William Faulkner (Written in the 1940’s, this novel deals with the emerging conflict about civil rights.)
  67. **LAUGHING BOY** – Oliver LaFarge (This novel has often been called one of the early classics of Native American life. It deals specifically with the struggles of a young Navajo boy.)

68. **THREE SOLDIERS** – John Dos Passos (The book speaks eloquently of the dignity—and yet the helplessness—of the individual caught up in the maelstrom of WWI and the military machine.)
69. **THE 42<sup>nd</sup> PARALLEL (U.S.A. TRILOGY)** – John Dos Passos
70. **NINETEEN NINETEEN (U.S.A. TRILOGY)** – John Dos Passos
71. **THE BIG MONEY (U.S.A. TRILOGY)** – John Dos Passos (These three novels give a panoramic picture of life and events in the U.S. in the period just preceding WWI, the period of the war and the armistice settlement, and the boom era of the 1920's, ending with the first years of the depression.)
72. **MISS LONELYHEARTS** – Nathanel West [ ½ book] (Miss Lonelyhearts is a newspaper writer, so named because he had been assigned to write the advice column, to answer the letters from Desperate, Sick-of-it-All, and Disillusioned. Eventually, the joke of writing such a column becomes very serious for Miss Lonelyhearts.)
73. **THE DAY OF THE LOCUST** – Nathanel West [ ½ book] (To Hollywood comes Tod Hackett, hoping for a career in screen designing, but he finds the way hard and falls in with others—extras, technicians, old vaudeville hands—who are also in difficulty. Instead of the the affluence of the California Dream, Hackett finds people consumed by boredom and their own emptiness.)
74. **STUDS LONIGAN** – James T. Farrell [3 books] (Set in the South Side of Chicago during the moral chaos of the Prohibition era, the novel focuses on Studs Lonigan, a young man seeking a destiny he cannot find, leaving behind him only lost ideals and unanswered questions to mark his swift passage from youth to early death.)
75. **CALL IT SLEEP** – Henry Roth (From foul, rat-infested cellars, up dark stairways to the airy freedom of New York tenement roofs, David Schearl, an immigrant boy overlooks his world. Through his eyes we see both the ugliness and beauty of the poor urban world of the immigrant.)
76. **MERCY OF A RUDE STREAM** – Henry Roth (Set in the New York of WWI, this novel shows a colorful, vibrant, carelessly brutal city where an immigrant boy, Ira Stigman, is coming of age. Ira begins to discover the genius and the burden of his imagination as he takes his first tentative steps toward adulthood.)
77. **A DIVING ROCK ON THE HUDSON** – Henry Roth (The sequel to **MERCY OF A RUDE STREAM**)
78. **IN DUBIOUS BATTLE** – John Steinbeck
79. **THE GRAPES OF WRATH** – John Steinbeck [2 books] (When the Joads lose their tenant farm in Oklahoma, they join thousands of others, traveling the narrow concrete highways toward California and the dream of the a piece of land to call their own.)
80. **EAST OF EDEN** – John Steinbeck [2 books] (Adam Trask was a good man—until strange, beautiful Cathy Ames came into his life. She taught him the dark lessons of evil—and Adam, a good man, learned to embrace evil.)
81. **THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT** – John Steinbeck (Ethan Hawley, a descendant of proud New England sea captains, works as a clerk in a grocery store. His wife is restless; his teenaged children are troubled and discontent, hungry for the

- tantalizing material comforts he cannot provide. Then one day, Ethan decides to take a holiday from his own moral standards.)
82. **BLACK BOY** – Richard Wright (This is Wright’s autobiography about his life as a young black male living in the South during the 1930’s. This tells the story of Wright’s attempt to establish an identity not pre-determined by the white world.)
  83. **NATIVE SON** – Richard Wright (Bigger Thomas is a young black man who lives in the urban ghetto of Chicago before WWII. The violent world in which Bigger grows up has a profound effect on the way he leads his life.)
  84. **THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN** – Wallace Stegner [2 books] (Here once more are the salesmen with the wadded greenbacks, the tin lizzies, the carnivals, the coal oil stores, the terrible flu epidemics of WWI, the coming of prohibition, as Bo Mason tries again and again to find the hidden jackpot somewhere—in the hotel business, in new farmland, in the sale of bootleg whiskey, and finally in the future of his sons.)
  85. **JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN** – Dalton Trumbo (This young man went to fight in WWI with visions of glory on his mind, but now he lies in a hospital bed trying to figure out where his life went wrong.)
  86. **THE OX-BOW INCIDENT** – Walter Van Tilburg Clark (This is a searing story of mob justice in the Old West—Nevada Territory.)
  87. **THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER** – Carson McCullers (This is the story of a strange young girl, Mick Kelly, and her life in a small Southern town.)
  88. **DELTA WEDDING** – Eudora Welty (This is a vivid and charming portrait of a large Southern family, the Fairchilds, living on their plantation in the Mississippi delta land. The year is 1923. A young relative, Laura McRaven, is visiting and is soon thrust into the midst of numerous cousins, uncles, aunts, and great-uncles, as they prepare for the marriage of Dabney, the prettiest of the Fairchild girls.)
  89. **INVISIBLE MAN** – Ralph Ellison [2 books] (Set in the era between the two world wars, this is the story of several passages in a young black man’s life—from the deep South to the streets of Harlem, from living on his knees to standing defiantly on his feet, from a fearful denial to a passionate embrace of his own Americanness.)
  90. **THE NAKED AND THE DEAD** – Norman Mailer [2 books] (This is the story of a reconnaissance platoon—WWII setting—that lands on Anopopei’s unprotected invasion beach. It is the story of a handful of exhausted men who are charged with an impossible and futile mission from which few will return alive.)
  91. **AMERICA IS IN THE HEART** – Carlos Bulosan (This is the autobiography of a Filipino poet who describes his boyhood in the Philippines, his voyage to America, and his years of hardship and despair as a migrant laborer following the harvest trail in the West.)
  92. **NO-NO BOY** – John Okada (Japanese-American experience around the middle of the twentieth century)
  93. **ANDERSONVILLE** – MacKinlay Kantor [3 books] (Sometimes acclaimed as the greatest novel ever written about the Civil War, this book captures all the glory and the shame of America’s most tragic conflict in the vivid, crowded world of an infamous prison, Andersonville, and the people who lived outside its barricades.)

94. CHILDHOOD'S END – Arthur C. Clarke (Without warning, giant silver ships from deep space appear in the skies above every major city on Earth. They are manned by the Overlords—creatures from an alien race who soon take over control of the world. Within fifty years, these brilliant masters have all but eliminated ignorance, disease, poverty and fear. Then suddenly the golden age ends!)
95. THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH – Saul Bellow [2 books] (Augie March is a poor Chicago boy growing up during the Great Depression. He latches on to a wild succession of occupations, then proudly rejects each one as too limiting. Not until he tangles with the glamorous Thea, a huntress with a trained eagle, is his independence seriously threatened.)
96. HENDERSON THE RAIN KING – Saul Bellow
97. HERZOG – Saul Bellow (Seeing himself as a survivor, not only of his private disasters but also those of the era, Herzog cannot keep from asking what he calls the “piercing” questions about life.)
98. THE PLAYER PIANO – Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (This is the story of life in Ilium, New York, where people have been replaced by machines. The computer revolution has conquered man, granting him dreariness and boredom.)
99. THE SIRENS OF TITAN – Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (Why should the richest man in America give up a life of unequalled indulgence to blast off in his private space ship for unknown worlds in pursuit of the irresistible Sirens of Titan? What bizarre design lies behind the Martians' strange invasion of Earth? These are some of the questions raised in this novel of the future.)
100. CAT'S CRADLE – Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (An apocalyptic tale of this planet's ultimate fate, this novel features a midget as the protagonist; a complete, original theology created by a calypso singer; and a vision of the future that is at once blackly fatalistic and hilariously funny.)
101. SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE – Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (Centering on the infamous firebombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know.)
102. WISE BLOOD – Flannery O'Connor (This is the story of Hazel Motes, a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his innate, desperate faith. He falls under the spell of a “blind” street preacher named Asa Hawks and his degenerate fifteen-year-old daughter, Lily Sabbath. In an ironic, malicious gesture of his own non-faith, and to prove himself a greater cynic than Hawks, Hazel Motes founds the Church of Christ Without Christ, but is still thwarted in his efforts to lose God.)
103. THE VIOLENT BEAR IT AWAY – Flannery O'Connor (The orphaned Francis Marion Tarwater and his cousin, the schoolteacher Rayber, defy the prophecy of their dead uncle—that Tarwater will become a prophet and will baptize Rayber's young son, Bishop. A series of struggles ensues: Tarwater fights an internal battle against his innate faith and the voices calling him to be a prophet while Rayber tries to draw Tarwater into a more “reasonable” modern world.)
104. A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ – Walter M. Miller, Jr. (The story centers on Leibowitz, a technician turned monk, who founded a monastery in the

- Southwest after our present civilization was destroyed in a nuclear war. A work of gripping science fiction, Miller's classic saga is a penetrating probe into man's destructive nature.)
103. THE CATCHER IN THE RYE – J.D. Salinger (Holden Caulfield finds himself kicked out of fancy prep school. At this point, he doesn't know what to do with his life. Thus begins his odyssey into New York to attempt to discover some way of living life in a world filled with "phonies.")
  104. THE SOT-WEED FACTOR – John Barth [3 books] (This is an extremely humorous book in which the author gives us the story of young Ebenezer Cooke who lives in the world of Captain John Smith. Barth gives a slightly irreverent version of the Pochantas story.)
  105. CATCH-22 – Joseph Heller [1 and ½ books] (This darkly comic novel tells the story of Yossarian, a young American soldier fighting in the Mediterranean arena during WWII. Yossarian wants out of the war because he sees that characters such as Major Major and Milo Minderbinder have no concern for the lives of the men.)
  106. THE BRAVE COWBOY – Edward Abbey (The hero, Jack Burns, is a solitary man who refuses to accept the tyranny of life in the twentieth century. He rides his horse down the main street of Duke City. Burns's adherence to the values of the Old West makes him intolerable to the forces of law and order that control the New West.)
  107. THE MONKEY WRENCH GANG – Edward Abbey (The bridge bedecked with decorations, streamers and Day-Glo banners, was ready. The crowd prepared to unloose a cheer or two. Suddenly the center of the bridge rose and up broke in two along a jagged zigzag line. A sheet of red flame streamed skyward. Thus, Edward Abbey tells the story of eco-warriors.)
  108. A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT – Norman MacLean [½ book] (This story recalls the experiences of a young man in frontier Montana, who taught his sons the ways of grace and fly fishing; of his brother, an artist at trout fishing, but less than successful at life; and the swift, cold rivers that ran from the heart of the mountains into the still-mysterious heart of man.)
  109. THE NATURAL – Bernard Malamud (He's an instant hero, a born winner with the whole dream going for him—the game he loves, and the woman he thought he'd lost. But he's up against the corrupters, the seducers, the glory destroyers.)
  110. THE FIXER – Bernard Malamud (Yakov Bok is a handyman—a fixer—one of the world's modest little men, beset by anxieties, tormented by the irrational prejudice of his neighbors, and persecuted by the agents of the powerful Russian government. Then Yakov, with stubborn strength, defies his accusers.)
  111. THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER – William Styron
  112. LINCOLN – Gore Vidal [1 and ½ books]
  113. THE LAST UNICORN – Peter S. Beagle (This is the story of a quest, the search by the unicorn—immortal, infinitely beautiful—for her lost fellows. She is assisted in her mission by Schmendrick the Magician, a kind of poor man's Merlin whose devotion to the exquisite creature he follows is exceeded only by his mediocrity in magic.)
  114. BLESS ME, ULTIMA – Rudolfo Anaya

115. **THE MEMORY OF OLD JACK** – Wendell Berry (“Old Jack” Beechum, a retired farmer whose 92 years of life close to the land have been lived out in a small Kentucky River town and go back to the Civil War, recounts his life one radiant September day in 1952. Thus Jack recreates his life as a boy, lover, husband, father, farmer, and revered community figure.)
116. **THE EDUCATION OF LITTLE TREE** – Forrest Carter (This is the story of a Cherokee boyhood of the 1930’s remembered in generous, loving detail)
117. **THE WOMAN WARRIOR** – Maxine Hong Kingston (A Chinese-American woman gains inspiration from stories about women from China who attempt to assert their strength in the world.)
118. **SONG OF SOLOMON** – Toni Morrison
119. **BELOVED** – Toni Morrison (This is the story—set in post-Civil War Ohio—of Sethe, an escaped slave who has risked death in order to wrench herself from a living death; who has lost a husband and buried a child; who has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad. Sethe lives in small house on the edge of town with her daughter, Denver, her mother-in-law, Baby Suggs, and a disturbing, mesmerizing intruder who calls herself Beloved.)
120. **PARADISE** – Toni Morrison (Founded by the descendants of freed slaves and survivors in exodus from a hostile world, the patriarchal community of Ruby is built on righteousness, rigidly enforced moral law, and fear. But seventeen miles away, another group of exiles has gathered in a promised land of their own. And it is upon these women in flight from death and despair that nine male citizens of Ruby will allay their pain, their terror, and their murderous rage.)
121. **CEREMONY** – Leslie Marmon Silko (Tayo, a young Native American, has been a prisoner of the Japanese during WWII, and the horrors of captivity have almost eroded his will to survive. His return to the Laguna Pueblo reservation only increases his feeling of estrangement and alienation. While other returning soldiers find easy refuge in alcohol and senseless violence, Tayo searches for another kind of comfort and resolution.)
122. **STONES FOR IBARRA** – Harriet Doerr (Richard and Sara Everton, just over and just under forty, have come to the small Mexican village of Ibarra to reopen a copper mine abandoned by Richard’s grandfather fifty years before. The two Americans, the only foreigners in Ibarra, live among people who both respect and misunderstand them. And gradually the villagers—at first enigmas to the Evertons—come to teach them much about life and the relentless tide of fate.)
123. **THE MOSQUITO COAST** – Paul Theroux (Abominating the cops, crooks, scavengers and funny-bunnies of the twentieth century, Allie Fox abandons civilization and takes the family to live in the Honduran jungle. There his tortured, quixotic genius keeps them alive, his hoarse tirades harrying them through a diseased and dirty Eden towards unimaginable darkness and terror.)
124. **WHITE NOISE** – Don DeLillo (Jack Gladney and his fourth wife, Babette, bound by their love, fear of death, and four ultramodern offspring, navigate the usual rocky passages of family life to the background babble brandname consumerism, sleepwalking through a world where “Coke is it!” and the TV is always on. Then a lethal black chemical cloud floats over their lives, an “airborne toxic event” unleashed by an industrial accident.)

125. CELEBRATION – Mary Lee Settle (London 1969. She first sees him in the Reading Room of the British Museum, when she pauses at Natural History on her way to Folklore—she being Teresa, a widowed American anthropologist, and he Ewen, a Scottish geologist recovering from the malarial fever caught in Africa. Their love story takes them to places as varied as the Great African Rift, Kurdistan, Hong Kong, and the Sudan.)
126. WORLD’S END – T. Coraghessan Boyle [1 and ½ books] (Haunted by the burden of his family’s traitorous past, Walter Van Brunt is about to have a collision with history. It will lead Walter to search for his lost father. And it will send the story into the past of the Hudson River Valley, from the late 1960’s, back to the anti-communist riots of the 1940s, to the late seventeenth century.)
127. THE TORTILLA CURTAIN – T. Coraghessan Boyle (Topanga Canyon is home to two couples on a collision course. Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered sushi-and-recycling existence in a newly gated hilltop community: he a sensitive nature writer, she an obsessive realtor. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine.)
128. A FRIEND OF THE EARTH – T. Coraghessan Boyle (It is the year 2025, and Tyrone Tierwater is eking out a bleak living in Southern California, managing a pop star’s private menagerie of the species “only a mother could love”—scruffy hyenas, jackals, warhogs and three down-at-the-mouth lions. Global warming is a reality. The biosphere has collapsed in a grim but pointed way, and most of the major mammalian species—not to mention fish, birds and frogs—are extinct.)
129. THE THANATOS SYNDROME – Walker Percy (When Dr. Tom Moore is released on parole from state prison, he returns to Feliciana, Louisiana, the parish where he was born and bred, where he practiced psychiatry before his arrest. He immediately notices something strange in almost everyone around him. With the ingenious help of his attractive cousin, Dr. Lucy Lipscomb, Dr. Moore begins to uncover a criminal experiment to “improve” people’s behavior by drugging the area’s water supply.)
130. THE RIVER WHY – David James Duncan (Leaving behind a madcap, fishing-obsessed family, Gus decides to strike out on his own, taking refuge in a secluded cabin on a remote riverbank to pursue his own flyfishing passion with unrelenting zeal. But instead of finding fishing bliss, Gus becomes increasingly troubled by the degradation of the natural world around him and by the spiritual barrenness of his own life.)
131. I AM ONE OF YOU FOREVER – Fred Chappell (This novel describes the experiences of a boy growing up in North Carolina in the 1940’s. Through a series of family stories that circle a central unspoken tragedy, Chappell combines dramatic and lyrical talents to produce a high-spirited elegy.)
132. BRIGHTEN THE CORNER WHERE YOU ARE – Fred Chappell (This is the story of a day in the life of Joe Robert Kirkman, a North Carolina mountain schoolteacher, sly prankster, country philosopher, and family man.)
133. FAREWELL, I’M BOUND TO LEAVE YOU – Fred Chappell (Jess Kirkman’s

- Grandmother is dying, and Jess remembers the tales she and his mother have passed down to him—a chorus of women’s voices that sing and share and celebrate the common song of life.)
134. LOVE MEDICINE – Louise Erdrich (This is the first in a series of books dealing with the modern Chippewas of North Dakota.)
  135. THE BEET QUEEN – Louis Erdrich
  136. TRACKS – Louise Erdrich
  137. THE ICE-SHIRT – William T. Vollmann [2 books] (The time is the tenth century A.D. The newcomers are a proud and bloody-minded people whose kings once changed themselves into wolves. The Norse have advanced as implacably as a glacier from Iceland to the wastes of Greenland—and from there to the place they call “Vinland the Good.” The natives are a bronze-skinned race who have not yet discovered iron and still see themselves as part of nature.)
  138. THE JOY LUCK CLUB – Amy Tan (In this novel, vignettes alternate back and forth between the lives of four Chinese women in pre-1949 China and the lives of their American-born daughters in California)
  139. THE KITCHEN GOD’S WIFE – Amy Tan (This book explores the world of California’s immigrant Chinese. This is the narrative of Winnie Louie’s life, which she tells—or offers—as a gift to her daughter Pearl. Long-held secrets are revealed, and a family’s myths are transferred ceremoniously to the next generation.)
  140. RAIN OF GOLD – Victor Villasenor [2 books] (In this novel, Victor Villa Senor weaves the parallel stories of two families and two countries—Mexico and the United States—bringing us the timeless romance between the volatile bootlegger who would become his father and the beautiful Lupe, his mother.)
  141. THE SHIPPING NEWS – E. Annie Proulx (At thirty-six, Quoye, a third-rate newspaperman, is wrenched violently out of his workaday life when his two-timing wife meets her just deserts. He retreats with his two daughters to his ancestral home on the starkly beautiful Newfoundland coast, where a rich cast of local characters all play a part in Quoye’s struggle to reclaim his life.)
  142. THE BEAN TREES – Barbara Kingsolver
  143. ANIMAL DREAMS – Barbara Kingsolver
  144. PIGS IN HEAVEN – Barbara Kingsolver (The above three novels shift back and forth between the world of the Native American reservations and the modern world beyond the reservation.)
  145. THE POISONWOOD BIBLE – Barbara Kingsolver [2 books] (This is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil.)
  146. GOING AFTER CACCIATO – Tim O’Brien (In a blend of reality and fantasy, this novel tells the story of a young soldier who one day lays down his rifle and sets off on a quixotic journey from the jungles of Indochina to the streets of Paris.)
  147. ALL THE PRETTY HORSES – Cormac McCarthy (This novel tells of John

- Grady Cole, the last of a long line of Texas ranchers. Across the border Mexico beckons—beautiful and desolate, rugged and cruelly civilized. With two companions, he sets off on an idyllic, sometimes comic adventure, to a place where dreams are paid for in blood.)
148. THE CROSSING – Cormac McCarthy
  149. CITIES OF THE PLAIN – Cormac McCarthy
  150. ATTICUS – Ron Hansen (This is the story of Atticus Cody who goes down to Mexico to recover the body of his son, thinking that this dissolute young man has committed suicide. Puzzled by what he finds in Resurreccion, he begins to suspect that Scott has been murdered.)
  151. COLD MOUNTAIN – Charles Frazier (This is the tale of a wounded soldier, Inman, who walks away from the ravages of the Civil War and back home to his prewar sweetheart, Ada.)
  151. EINSTEIN'S DREAMS – Alan Lightman [1/2 book] It is 1905 in Berne, Switzerland. A young patent clerk has been dreaming marvelous dreams about the nature of time. He is Albert Einstein and he has almost finished his special theory of relativity. What were his dreams like those last pivotal few months?)
  152. DRIVING MR. ALBERT – Michael Paterniti (A young journalist from Maine and an eighty-four-year-old pathologist named Thomas Harvey drive across America with Albert Einstein's brain as it floats in formaldehyde in a Tupperware bowl. This is the story of that adventure.)
  153. THE BOOK OF DANIEL – E.L. Doctorow (This book tells the stories of two earnest American communists executed for treason in the 1950s and of their son, who desperately tries to understand their fate—and, in his own way, avenge it—during the radical renaissance of the 1960s.
  154. CITY OF GOD – E.L. Doctorow (At the heart of his novel is a riveting detective story about a cross that vanishes from a Lower East Side church only to reappear on the roof an Upper West Side synagogue. An Episcopal priest and a female rabbi become involved in the strange desecration.)
  155. THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL – by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee [ ½ book]
  156. SCHOPENHAUER'S TELESCOPE – Gerard Donovan (In an unnamed European village, in the middle of a civil war, one man digs while another watches over him. Slowly, they begin to talk. Over the course of the afternoon, as the snow falls and truckloads of villagers are corralled in the next field, we discover why they are there—not just who they are but also how sinister events in the country have led them to be separated by a deepening grave, and why the history of civilization is inseparable from the history of mass violence.)

### Autobiographers and Diarists

1. I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS – Maya Angelou
2. THE HEART OF A WOMAN – Maya Angelou

3. NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE, WRITTEN BY HIMSELF – Frederick Douglass
4. AUTOBIOGRAPHY – Benjamin Franklin
5. SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM – T.E. Lawrence [2 and ½ books]
6. APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA – John Henry Newman
7. DAYS OF OBLIGATION: AN ARGUMENT WITH MY MEXICAN FATHER—Richard Rodriguez
8. AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X – Malcolm X
9. BREAD GIVERS: A STRUGGLE BETWEEN A FATHER OF THE OLD WORLD AND A DAUGHTER OF THE NEW – Anzia Yeziarska
10. TWENTY YEARS AT HULL-HOUSE – Jane Addams

### Biographers and History Writers

1. ON HEROES AND HERO WORSHIP – Thomas Carlyle
2. A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES: THE BIRTH OF BRITAIN – Winston Churchill
3. A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES: THE NEW WORLD—Winston Churchill
4. A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES: THE AGE OF REVOLUTION – Winston Churchill
5. A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES: THE GREAT DEMOCRACIES – Winston Churchill
6. FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS – John Hope Franklin
7. MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS – Antonia Fraser
8. BUILDERS OF THE BAY COLONY – Samuel Eliot Morison
9. THE OREGON TRAIL – Francis Parkman
10. THE AGE OF JACKSON – Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. [2 and ½ books]
11. ROBERT KENNEDY AND HIS TIMES – Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. [2 books]
12. STRANGERS FROM A DIFFERENT SHORE: A HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS – Ronald Takaki
13. A DIFFERENT MIRROR: A HISTORY OF MULTICULTURAL AMERICA – Ronald Takaki
14. THE GUNS OF AUGUST – Barbara Tuchman [2 books]
15. THE MARCH OF FOLLY: FROM TROY TO VIETNAM – Barbara Tuchman [2 books]

### Critics and Essayists

1. CULTURE AND ANARCHY – Matthew Arnold
2. NOBODY KNOWS MY NAME – James Baldwin
3. THE GUTENBERG ELEGIES: THE FATE OF READING IN AN ELECTRONIC AGE – Sven Birkerts

4. THE NUDE: A STUDY IN IDEAL FORM – Kenneth Clark [2 books]
5. “The American Scholar,” “The Over-Soul,” “The Transcendentalist,” “Circles,” “Experience,” “Character” – Ralph Waldo Emerson
6. LIFE: THE MOVIE – Neal Gabler
7. MEDIA UNLIMITED: HOW THE TORRENT OF IMAGES AND SOUNDS OVERWHELMS OUR LIVES – Todd Gitlin
8. HUMANITY: A MORAL HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY – Jonathan Glover
9. THE OTHER AMERICA – Michael Harrington
10. SAVAGE INEQUALITIES: CHILDREN IN AMERICA’S SCHOOLS – Jonathan Kozol
11. THE CULTURE OF NARCISSISM – Christopher Lasch
12. DAKOTA: A SPIRITUAL GEOGRAPHY – Kathleen Norris
13. SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT and OTHER ESSAYS – George Orwell
14. TECHNOPOLY: THE SURRENDER OF CULTURE TO TECHNOLOGY – Neil Postman
15. UNTO THIS LAST and OTHER ESSAYS – John Ruskin
16. A IS FOR OX: THE COLLAPSE OF LITERACY AND THE RISE OF VIOLENCE IN AN ELECTRONIC AGE – Barry Sanders]
17. THE CONTENT OF OUR CHARACTER: A NEW VISION OF RACE IN AMERICA – Shelby Steele
18. ONE WRITER’S BEGINNINGS – Eudora Welty
19. RACE MATTERS – Cornel West
20. ONE MAN’S MEAT – E.B. White
21. AXEL’S CASTLE: A STUDY IN THE IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE OF 1870 – 1930 – Edmund Wilson
22. PATRIOTIC GORE – Edmund Wilson (Civil War Literature) [2 books]

#### Science and Nature Writers

1. DESERT SOLITAIRE – Edward Abbey
2. WHAT ARE PEOPLE FOR? – Wendell Berry
3. FLESH AND MACHINES: HOW ROBOTS WILL CHANGE US – Rodney R. Brooks
4. THE ASCENT OF MAN – Jacob Bronowski
5. GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL: THE FATES OF HUMAN SOCIETIES – Jared Diamond [1 and ½ books]
6. PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK – Annie Dillard
7. THE MISMEASURE OF MAN – Stephen Jay Gould
8. DINOSAURS IN A HAYSTACK: REFLECTIONS IN NATURAL HISTORY – Stephen Jay Gould
9. A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME – Stephen Hawking
10. PHYSICS AND BEYOND – Werner Heisenberg
11. GODEL, ESCHER, BACH: AN ETERNAL GOLDEN BRAID – Douglas Hostadter [4 books]

12. THE COPERNICAN REVOLUTION – Thomas S. Kuhn
13. THE END OF NATURE – Bill McKibben
14. THE AGE OF MISSING INFORMATION – Bill McKibben
15. ENOUGH: STAYING HUMAN IN AN ENGINEERED AGE – Bill McKibben
16. THE CONTROL OF NATURE – John McPhee
17. HOW THE MIND WORKS – Steven Pinker [2 books]
18. THE MAKING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB – Richard Rhodes [2 and ½ books]
19. THE DOUBLE HELIX – James D. Watson
20. CONSILIENCE: THE UNITY OF KNOWLEDGE – Edward O. Wilson