

# 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

## Classic Fiction

- ***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
A colonel receives five seeds in the mail--and dies within weeks. A young bride disappears immediately after her wedding. An old hat and a Christmas goose are the only clues to a stolen jewel. A son is accused of his father's murder. These mysteries--and many more--are brought to the house on Baker Street where detective Sherlock Holmes resides. No case is too tricky for the world's most famous sleuth and his incredible powers of deduction.
- ***Anna Karenina*** by Leo Tolstoy  
Sensual, rebellious Anna renounces a respectable marriage and a fine social position for a passionate and destructive romance.
- ***As I Lay Dying*** by William Faulkner  
The novel explores the harrowing account of a family's struggle to get their mother properly buried.
- ***The Awakening*** by Kate Chopin  
An unhappy wife and mother discovers new qualities in herself when she visits Grand Isle, a resort for the Creole elite of New Orleans. This is an astounding short piece of feminist fiction.
- ***Brideshead Revisited*** by Evelyn Waugh  
The story captures the difficult loves of insular Englishman Charles Ryder and his peculiarly intense relationship with a wealthy but dysfunctional family. This is set in England in the years between the wars.
- ***Catch 22*** by Joseph Heller  
Heller has created a savagely funny war novel about the military madness and civilian insanity in World War II.
- ***Cat's Cradle*** by Kurt Vonnegut  
An eccentric inventor creates an atom bomb and a crystal called ice-nine that freezes everything.
- ***A Clockwork Orange*** by Anthony Burgess  
A savage satire, this is a nightmare vision of the future, where criminals take over after dark. Look for a copy with a glossary.
- ***The Count of Monte Cristo*** by Alexandre Dumas  
Unjustly sentenced to life imprisonment, Edmund Dantes escapes, determined to exact revenge from his enemies.
- ***Crime and Punishment*** by Fyodor Dostoyevksy  
A sensitive intellectual is driven by poverty to believe himself exempt from moral law.

- ***East of Eden*** by John Steinbeck  
This sprawling and often brutal novel, set in the rich farmlands of California's Salinas Valley, follows the intertwined destinies of two families.
- ***Emma*** by Jane Austen  
A self-assured, young lady's capricious behavior is dictated by romantic fancy.
- ***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** by Ernest Hemingway  
In an epic story, Robert Jordan fights, loves and dies with the anti-Fascist guerillas of the Spanish Civil War.
- ***The Fountainhead*** by Ayn Rand  
A rebellious architect refuses to lower his standards in work or in love.
- ***The Good Soldier*** by Ford Maddox Ford  
The passionate tale relates the complex social relationships between two Edwardian couples, one English, one American.
- ***Gulliver's Travels*** by Jonathan Swift  
This satire reveals human foibles through Gulliver's adventures in fantastic lands where he meets the Lilliputians, the Brobdingnags, the Yahoos and many other strange creatures.
- ***Hard Times*** by Charles Dickens  
Here is Dickens' satire on the Victorian family and the philosophies of a society, which sought to turn men into machines.
- ***Jude the Obscure*** by Thomas Hardy  
This is the tragic tale of a young man whose dreams are thwarted because of his social class.
- ***Member of the Wedding*** by Carson McCullers  
A young Southern tomboy is determined to be the third party in her elder brother's honeymoon, despite all advice.
- ***Middlemarch*** by George Eliot  
Readers follow Dorothea Brooke, a young woman of impeccable character, through a maze of nineteenth-century morals and conventions.
- ***My Antonia*** by Willa Cather  
This is the story of immigrants and Nebraska pioneers and their attachment to the land and subtle reliance on each other.
- ***The Optimist's Daughter*** by Eudora Welty  
A young woman struggles with remembering and reinterpreting her parents' marriage.
- ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** by Oscar Wilde  
An outwardly innocent but inwardly corrupt gentleman draws those around him into a life of wanton pleasures.

- ***The Plague*** by Albert Camus  
The bubonic plague ravages the Algerian port of Oran in this symbolically rich diagnosis of spiritual and political disease.
- ***Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*** by James Joyce  
In a vivid, eccentric picture of 1920s Dublin, a young man struggles with Catholicism.
- ***A River Runs Through It*** by Norman Maclean  
This is a story of family and fly-fishing in the American West of the 1920s.
- ***Siddhartha*** by Herman Hesse  
Siddhartha transcends earthly pleasures to a state of peace and mystic holiness.
- ***Tender is the Night*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
Set on the French Riviera in the late 1920s, *Tender Is the Night* is the tragic romance of the young actress Rosemary Hoyt and the stylish American couple Dick and Nicole Diver. A brilliant young psychiatrist at the time of his marriage, Dick is both husband and doctor to Nicole, whose wealth goads him into a lifestyle not his own, and whose growing strength highlights Dick's harrowing demise.
- ***Vanity Fair*** by William Thackeray  
The novel relates the epic adventure of Becky Sharp, a witty, clever, and accomplished young woman who is determined to break into society at any cost.
- ***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams  
A maverick band of rabbits, against all odds, seeks a new home and a better society.
- ***The Woman in White*** by Wilkie Collins  
This Victorian best seller has all the ingredients of a suspenseful mystery: a fragile heroine, an insane asylum, and Count Fosco, the villain you love to hate.

## Contemporary Fiction

- ***After the First Death*** by Robert Cormier  
When a terrorist hijacks a camp bus full of kids, everyone involved becomes a victim. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Ahab's Wife*** by Sena Jeter Naslund  
Inspired by a brief passage in Melville's *Moby Dick* where Captain Ahab speaks passionately of his young wife on Nantucket, the novel follows the life of Ahab's wife.
- ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*** by Michael Chabon  
The author chronicles the adventures of two boys who write comic books during what was known as the Golden Age of comics in the 1930s. (Pulitzer Prize)

- ***Annie on my Mind*** by Nancy Garden  
Liza puts aside her feelings for Annie after a disaster at school, but eventually she allows love to triumph over the ignorance of others.
- ***Beauty*** by Robin McKinley  
Love is the only key to unlocking a curse and transforming the beast into a man. This easy-to-read story is a new take on an old fairy tale.
- ***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison  
In post-Civil War Ohio, the past continues to haunt the ex-slave Sethe and the surviving members of her family. (ALA Notable)
- ***Blue Water: A Novel*** by A. Manette Ansay  
This is a tale of the consequences of the death of a child. Demoralized by lawsuits, Megan and her husband set off on a sailboat for parts unknown. The journey is transforming.
- ***Bone People*** by Keri Hulme  
A woman artist in New Zealand wins the lottery, and a shipwrecked boy and a Maori man come into her life. Together, the three protagonists set out on their personal journeys.
- ***Born Blue*** by Han Nolan & Laetitia Devaux  
This honest first person narrative tells the story of an “emotionally disturbed teen whose life-affirming passion for music constantly conflicts with her self-destructive tendencies.”
- ***Briar Rose*** by Jane Yolen  
Disturbed by her grandmother's unique version of Sleeping Beauty, Rebecca seeks the truth behind the fairy tale.
- ***Cat's Eye*** by Margaret Atwood  
Elaine Risley, a controversial painter, returns to Toronto, the city of her youth for a retrospective of her art. Engulfed by vivid images of the past, she reminisces about a trio of girls who initiated her into the fierce politics of childhood and its secret world of friendship, longing, and betrayal.
- ***Cold Mountain*** by Charles Frazier  
In the final weeks of the Civil War, Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, decides to return home to Ada, the woman he loves. The epic parallels *The Odyssey* as Inman has his share of hostile encounters with strangers intent on disrupting his journey. (National Book Award)
- ***The Commitments*** by Roddy Doyle  
This unpretentious first novel traces the short, funny, and furious career of a group of working-class Irish kids who form a band, The Commitments
- ***Crank*** by Ellen Hopkins  
This semi-autobiographical novel chronicles the turbulent and often disturbing relationship between Kristina, a character based on the author's daughter, and “the monster,” the highly addictive drug crystal meth--or ‘crank.’

- ***Deogratias*** by Jean Philippe Stassen  
This is a graphic novel of a Hutu boy who comes of age in Rwanda in 1994. Often disturbing, it is the heartbreaking history of the Rwandan genocide.
- ***Disgrace*** by J.M. Coetzee  
This novel of a liberally minded, white South African professor addresses life in post-apartheid South Africa. (Booker Prize)
- ***The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*** by Nancy Farmer  
In the year 2194, General Matsika's children disappear and their parents call in Africa's most unusual detectives: the Ear, the Eye and the Arm, who have powers beyond other human beings. (Newberry Honor)
- ***Ender's Game*** by Orson Scott Card  
In a world decimated by alien attacks, the government trains young geniuses like Ender Wiggin in military strategy with increasingly complex computer games to combat the evil forces. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The English Patient*** by Michael Ondaatje  
A burn patient is cared for in a ruined Italian villa by a young nurse, a former spy and thief, and a Sikh who clears the area of mines. Their various lives, past and current, entwine in a mystical novel full of vivid images. (Booker Prize)
- ***Go Tell it on the Mountain*** by James Baldwin  
This is an autobiographical novel of a family in Harlem composed of an angry father, a stoic mother, a rebellious older son, and a sensitive younger one.
- ***Grease Monkey*** by Tim Eldred  
In this futuristic, humorous graphic novel, men and super-evolved gorillas work together to battle extraterrestrials.
- ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*** by Douglas Adams  
Seconds before the earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, his friend, Ford Prefect, plucks Arthur Dent off the planet.
- ***House of Spirits*** by Isabel Allende  
Set in remote Chile, this novel explores the lives of the deeply spiritual members of the Trueba family as they survive rebellion, love, hate and revolution for three generations.
- ***Identity Crisis*** by Morales/Bair  
“Why would anyone choose to be a hero? Why would anyone risk the lives of family and friends? These are some of the questions raised in Identity Crisis...[in which] DC’s premier team suffers a terrible loss.”
- ***In the Lake of the Woods*** by Tim O'Brien  
This is a gripping tale about America's attachment to grief and violence. (James Fennimore Cooper Prize for Historical Fiction)

- ***In the Time of Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez  
Four Dominican sisters, symbols of defiant hope in a country shadowed by dictatorship and despair, tell their stories.
- ***Interpreter of Maladies*** by Jhumpa Lahiri  
Here are short stories of South Asian women finding their place and their identities. (Pulitzer Prize)
- ***Jack*** by A.M. Holmes  
Fifteen-year-old Jack's confused feelings for his father, who left him and his mother four years earlier, are further complicated when he finds that his father is gay.
- ***The Joy Luck Club*** by Amy Tan  
A chronicle of the lives of four Chinese women relates their forty-year friendship and how the death of one member brings her daughter into the group, creating a new understanding for each. (ALA Best Book)
- ***July's People*** by Nadine Gordimer  
Liberal South African whites see power shift in the apartheid state when the blacks stage a full-scale revolution.
- ***Killer Angels*** by Michael Shaara  
Officers and foot soldiers from both the Union and Confederacy steel themselves for the bloody battle of Gettysburg. (Pulitzer Prize)
- ***A Lesson Before Dying*** by Ernest Gaines  
Set in the 1940s, this is a heartbreaking story of friendship between two black men - one wrongly condemned to die and one who is sent into the penitentiary to help the slow learner gain a sense of dignity and self-esteem before his execution. (National Critics Circle Award)
- ***Like Water for Chocolate*** by Laura Esquivel  
As the youngest of three daughters of a turn-of-the-century Mexican family, sensuous Tita may not marry but must remain at home to care for her mother.
- ***The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*** by Sherman Alexie  
Stark, compelling stories relate the lives of contemporary Native Americans.
- ***Memoirs of a Geisha*** by Arthur Golden  
Chiyo, who is sold to a geisha house at nine, resists her oppression, yet studies the arts of the geisha, reaching for success in the only subculture in prewar Japan in which women rule and gain great strength.
- ***Misery*** by Stephen King  
After an automobile accident, novelist Paul Sheldon meets his biggest fan. She becomes his nurse -- and his captor.
- ***Mona in the Promised Land*** by Gish Jen  
A humorous book, it addresses the quirks of growing up in a Chinese-American household.
- ***My Sister's Keeper*** by Jodi Picoult  
"Anne was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, she

has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow ... to lengthen her sister's life." Now they want her to donate a kidney and Anne has hired a lawyer.

- ***Once a Runner*** by John L. Parker  
This book " is the best book about running I have ever read. It has a good plot, well-developed characters, excellent writing – but for runners it will seem much more like a biography of one of their own." It's all about competition. Is the sacrifice worth it?
- ***Poisonwood Bible*** by Barbara Kingsolver  
The wife and four daughters of a missionary who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo tell this suspenseful epic of one family's undoing and remarkable reconstruction in post-colonial Africa.
- ***Postcards from No Man's Land*** by Aidan Chambers  
This well-written novel is in the perspective of two characters, and shows how their lives change while living in Amsterdam. The first main character, Jacob Todd, is a seventeen-year-old from England that goes to Amsterdam for a remembrance in honor of his grandfather and other fallen soldiers of WWII. The second main character, Geertrui, the woman who saved his grandfather, tells her story of her life during the war.
- ***A Prayer for Owen Meany*** by John Irving  
Owen Meany, seen through the eyes of his best friend, consistently challenges the traditional New England community in which he grows up, creating hilarious adventures and heartbreaking moments.
- ***The Red Tent*** by Anita Diamant  
The story of Dinah, whose life is barely acknowledged in the Book of Genesis, conveys the trials and mysteries of ancient womanhood.
- ***Ruby in the Smoke series*** by Philip Pullman  
A suspenseful tale written in Dickensian style is filled with despicable hags, valiant heroes, and children living in the underbelly of 19th-century London.
- ***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd  
This is "the tale of one motherless daughter's discovery of what family really means – and of the strange and wonderous places we find love."
- ***Shades of Simon Gray*** by Joyce McDonald  
This complex, thought-provoking tale is of a contemporary computer hacking group who breaches the security of a high school computer system and becomes entangled with a 200 year old crime.
- ***The Shipping News*** by E. Annie Proulx  
After the death of his two-timing wife, Quoyle, a third-rate newspaperman, retreats with his two daughters to the wild and starkly beautiful shores of Newfoundland in order to confront his heritage and reclaim his life. (Pulitzer Prize; National Book Award)

- ***Snow Falling on Cedars*** by David Guterson  
In 1954, a Japanese American is charged with the murder of a fisherman; over the course of trial, it is discovered that much more is at stake than one man's guilt.
- ***So Far From God*** by Ana Castillo  
This wacky, wild, funny novel, set in New Mexico, engages the reader in the lives of a Chicano mother and her four daughters, their loves and struggles, their gossip, recipes, miracles, and community activism.
- ***The Sparrow*** by Mary Doria Russell  
A science fiction, this book shifts between the years 2016 and 2060 as it recounts a scientific mission to a newly discovered extraterrestrial culture.
- ***The Stories of Eva Luna*** by Isabel Allende  
Eva Luna recounts the adventurous life of a poor young Latin American woman who finds friendship, love, and some measure of worldly success through her powers as a storyteller.
- ***A Thief of Time*** by Tony Hillerman  
The Navajo Tribal detective tracks down a killer and along the way travels throughout the vast Navajo nation.
- ***A Thousand Acres*** by Jane Smiley  
Shakespeare's King Lear is set in Iowa farm country. (National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction)
- ***A Time for Dancing*** by Davida Hurwin  
Seventeen-year-old best friends Juliana and Samantha share a passion for dance, for life, and for each other. Then Jules is diagnosed with cancer and must travel a path Sam cannot follow.
- ***Timeline*** by Michael Crichton  
A puzzling adventure, the novel considers the emerging field of quantum technology with the complex realities of the medieval past. When any moment in history can be actualized, a group of historians can enter, literally, life in the fourteenth-century feudal France.
- ***Troy*** by Adele Geras  
In the final year of the siege of Troy, five teenagers find themselves in the midst of battle and in relationships with famous Trojan figures.
- ***Whale Talk*** by Chris Crutcher  
A mixed-race, larger-than-life hero puts together a swim team of misfits as he tries to upset the balance of power at his central Washington high school, where jocks and the narrow-minded rule.
- ***A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*** by Michael Dorris  
Starting in the present and moving backwards in time, this is the tale of three Native American women.

## Nonfiction

- ***The 9/11 Report*** by Jackson/Colon  
This is a graphic adaptation based on the final report of the National Committee on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States.
- ***Angela's Ashes*** by Frank McCourt  
Mccourt tells the story of his poverty-stricken childhood years after his family returned to the slums of Limerick, Ireland. (Pulitzer Prize)
- ***Autobiography of Malcolm X*** by Malcolm X w/ Alex Haley  
This is an absorbing, personal story of Malcolm X's rise from hoodlum, dope peddler and pimp to dynamic leader of Black Nationalism.
- ***A Beautiful Mind*** by Sylvia Nasar  
John Nash, the mathematical genius who was a legend by age thirty, slips into madness and after decades, emerges from a ghostlike existence to win a Nobel Prize and world acclaim.
- ***Black Boy*** by Richard Wright  
Bigger Thomas grows from innocence to experience in Jim Crow South.
- ***Black Ice*** by Lorene Carey  
In an autobiographical account, the author describes her struggle as a young black girl, who tries to maintain her identity in a traditional, largely white prep school.
- ***Caucasia*** by Danzy Senna  
This startling narrative about a biracial girlhood among black militants and white suburbanites explores the complicated legacies of race.
- ***Cosmos*** by Carl Sagan  
This is a provocative overview of the past, present, and future of science. It traces today's knowledge and scientific methods to their historical roots, blending science and philosophy in a wholly energetic and irresistible way.
- ***The Doctor Stories*** by William Carlos Williams  
These short stories by the great American poet are a series of clinical vignettes from his medical practice in the early part of the 19th century.
- ***Epileptic*** by David B.  
Written by a French writer, this is an astonishing heartbreaking graphic memoir about growing up with an epileptic brother.
- ***A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*** by Dave Eggers  
This memoir is of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his seven-year-old brother; this is a simultaneously hilarious and wildly inventive redefining of the idea of family.
- ***In Cold Blood*** by Truman Capote  
This story about the brutal slaying of a Kansas family by two would-be robbers will continue to resonate in its readers' minds long after it is finished.

- ***Into Thin Air*** by Jon Krakauer  
The tragedy that took the lives of experienced mountain guides and novice climbers in a raging blizzard atop Mt. Everest in 1996 is told with clarity, poignancy and brutal honesty.
- ***Life and Death in Shanghai*** by Nien Cheng  
This is an inspiring biography of a Chinese woman of intellect and privilege who survived imprisonment during the Cultural Revolution.
- ***The Man Who Mistook his Wife for his Hat*** by Oliver Sachs  
Through a series of vignettes, Sachs considers the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre and apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders.
- ***Me Talk Pretty One Day*** by David Sedaris  
The wildly entertaining, humorous book relates a boy's life with language from 5th grade speech therapy to French lessons in Paris.
- ***Out of Africa*** by Isak Dinesen  
The experiences of Karen von Blixen as she managed a coffee plantation close to the Ngong Hills near Nairobi are recalled in this lush portrait of East Africa.
- ***The Perfect Storm*** by Sebastian Junger  
This is a true story of fishermen lost off the coast of Gloucester, MA during a raging hurricane.
- ***Roots*** by Alex Haley  
This family narrative spans seven generations of African-Americans from the 1700's to the mid-20th century.
- ***The Road from Coorain*** by Jill Ker Conway  
Conway's masterpiece of autobiography tells of a journey from girlhood on a sheep farm in Australia to Conway's departure for America.
- ***Tao Te Ching*** by Lao Tzu  
Written in the sixth century BC, this collection reflects upon human nature and existence.
- ***A Walk in the Woods*** by Bill Bryson  
Bryson reacquaints himself with America by walking the 2,100 mile Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine. It is a humorous, moving account of a journey fraught with difficulty.
- ***Wild Swans*** by Jung Chang  
Evocative and unsettling, this story tells of how three generations of women survived China's century of turbulence.
- ***Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*** by Robert Pirsig  
Wonderful descriptions of nature are presented along with the difficulties of living in a technological society - as well as everything you need to know about motorcycles.