

College Reading Lists

Featured here will be lists offered by various US colleges and universities as guidelines to incoming students. Some of the lists will be what the college feels the incoming freshman should have read by the time s/he enters the school. Some lists reflect the reading an incoming student can expect during the freshman year. Other lists may have different parameters. The material for this page is taken from *Reading Lists for College-Bound Students*, 2nd Ed. Doug Estell, Michele L. Satchwell, and Patricia S. Wright. ARCO (Division of Prentice Hall). This book is available for purchase on the [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) page. If you have a college or university whose list you'd like to see, make your request via [e-mail](mailto:).

To begin with, and as a nice balance to the Top 100?? List, is a list of the 100 Most-Often-Recommended Works. This list contains the 100 works most frequently recommended by colleges and universities as compiled from pre-college reading lists, freshman syllabi, and other core programs.

The 100 Most-Often-Recommended Works for College Freshman

Novels and Short Stories

Jane Austen	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	British, 1813
James Baldwin	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	American, 1953
Saul Bellow	<i>Seize the Day</i>	American, 1956
Charlotte Brontë	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	British 1847
Emily Brontë	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	British, 1847
Albert Camus	<i>The Stranger</i>	French, 1942
Lewis Carroll	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	British, 1865
Willa Cather	<i>My Antonia</i>	American, 1918
Miguel de Cervantes	<i>Don Quixote</i>	Spanish, 1605, 1617
Kate Chopin	<i>The Awakening</i>	American, 1899
Joseph Conrad	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	British, 1902
Stephen Crane	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	American, 1895
Daniel Defoe	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	British, 1719
Charles Dickens	<i>Great Expectations</i>	British, 1860-61
Feodor Dostoevski	<i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Russian, 1866
George Eliot	<i>The Mill on the Floss</i>	British, 1860
Ralph Ellison	<i>Invisible Man</i>	American, 1947

William Faulkner	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>	American, 1929
Henry Fielding	<i>Tom Jones</i>	British, 1749
F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	American, 1925
Gustave Flaubert	<i>Madame Bovary</i>	French, 1857
E.M. Forster	<i>A Passage to India</i>	British, 1924
Gabriel García Márquez	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Columbian, 1967
William Golding	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	British, 1954
Thomas Hardy	<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>	British, 1891
Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	American, 1850
Ernest Hemingway	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i>	American, 1929
Zora Neale Hurston	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	American, 1937
Aldous Huxley	<i>Brave New World</i>	British, 1932
Henry James	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	American, 1898
James Joyce	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	Irish, 1916
Franz Kafka	<i>The Trial</i>	Czechoslovakian, 1925
D.H. Lawrence	<i>Sons and Lovers</i>	British, 1913
Sinclair Lewis	<i>Babbitt</i>	American, 1922
Bernard Malamud	<i>The Assistant</i>	American, 1957
Thomas Mann	<i>Death in Venice</i>	German, 1912
Herman Melville	<i>Moby-Dick</i>	American, 1851
Toni Morrison	<i>Sula</i>	American, 1973
Flannery O'Connor	<i>A Good Man Is Hard to Find</i>	American, 1955
Tillie Olsen	<i>Tell Me a Riddle</i>	American, 1956-60
George Orwell	<i>Animal Farm</i>	British, 1945
Alan Paton	<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i>	South African, 1948
Edgar Allan Poe	<i>Great Tales and Poems</i>	American, 1839-45
J.D. Salinger	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	American, 1951
Sir Walter Scott	<i>Ivanhoe</i>	British, 1820
Mary Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>	British, 1818
John Steinbeck	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	American, 1939
Jonathan Swift	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	British, 1726
William Makepeace Thackeray	<i>Vanity Fair</i>	British, 1847-48
Leo Tolstoy	<i>War and Peace</i>	Russian, 1865-69
Ivan Turgenev	<i>Fathers and Sons</i>	Russian, 1862
Mark Twain	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	American, 1886

John Updike	<i>Rabbit, Run</i>	American, 1961
Voltaire	<i>Candide</i>	French, 1759
Kurt Vonnegut	<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>	American, 1969
Alice Walker	<i>The Color Purple</i>	American, 1982
Eudora Welty	<i>Thirteen Stories</i>	American, 1965
Edith Wharton	<i>The Age of Innocence</i>	American, 1920
Virginia Woolf	<i>To the Lighthouse</i>	British, 1927
Richard Wright	<i>Native Son</i>	American, 1940

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Drama

Aeschylus	<i>Oresteia</i>	Greek, 458 BCE
Aristophanes	<i>Lysistrata</i>	Greek, 411, BCE
Samuel Beckett	<i>Waiting for Godot</i>	Irish, 1952
Bertolt Brecht	<i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i>	German, 1941
Anton Chekov	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	Russian, 1904
Euripides	<i>Medea</i>	Greek, 431 BCE
Johann von Goethe	<i>Faust, Part I</i>	German, 1808
Henrik Ibsen	<i>A Doll's House</i>	Norwegian, 1879
Christopher Marlowe	<i>Doctor Faustus</i>	British, 1604
Arthur Miller	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	American, 1949
Molière	<i>The Misanthrope</i>	French, 1666
Eugene O'Neill	<i>Desire Under the Elms</i>	American, 1924
William Shakespeare	<i>Hamlet</i>	British, 1600
George Bernard Shaw	<i>Pygmalion</i>	British, 1913
Sophocles	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>	Greek, 430 BCE
Oscar Wilde	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	British, 1895
Thornton Wilder	<i>Our Town</i>	American, 1938
Tennessee Williams	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	American, 1945

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Poetry

Allison, Alexander, Editor	<i>Norton Anthology of Poetry (Shorter Edition)</i>	British & American
Anonymous	<i>Beowulf</i>	British, c. 700
Anonymous	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	British, c. 1350-1400
Geoffrey Chaucer	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>	British, 1387-1400
Dante	<i>Inferno</i>	Italian, c. 1320

Homer	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Greek, c. 9th C. BCE
John Milton	<i>Paradise Lost</i>	British, 1667
Vergil	<i>The Aeneid</i>	Italian, c. 18 BCE
Walt Whitman	<i>Leaves of Grass</i>	American, 1855

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Miscellaneous

Aristotle	<i>Poetics</i>	Greek, 4th C. BCE
Saint Augustine	<i>Confessions</i>	Italian, 397-401
	<i>Bible (esp. King James Version)</i>	
Charles Darwin	<i>Origin of the Species</i>	British, 1859
Ralph Waldo Emerson	<i>"The American Scholar"</i>	American, 1837
Benjamin Franklin	<i>Autobiography</i>	American, 1771
Sigmund Freud	<i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>	German, 1930
Edith Hamilton	<i>Mythology</i>	American, 1940
Niccolò Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i>	Italian, 1532
Karl Marx	<i>Communist Manifesto</i>	German, 1848
Michel de Montaigne	<i>Selected Essays</i>	French, 1580
Plato	<i>Republic</i>	Greek, c. 370 BCE
Henry David Thoreau	<i>Walden</i>	American, 1854

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