



# TEACHING THE CLASSICS

*by Adam and Missy Andrews*

Second Edition  
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## APPENDIX B: READING LISTS

Here are some of the books we love. This list is by no means exhaustive, of course. We are firmly convinced, in fact, that there is no such thing as an exhaustive list of good books! You will find great pleasure, if you have not already, in building a reading list of your own. To that end, we direct your attention to the booklist resources listed in this syllabus.

If you are new to book-gathering and would benefit from knowing where to start, here are some suggestions.

### Stories for Young Children

**Aardema, Verna – *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears***

A disturbance in the forest causes an untimely death for one of Mrs. Owl’s owlets. Blame shifting and false witness chase a rabbit trail of disaster back to the creature whose foolishness was the real cause of the tragedy. Repetition enchants the children.

**Ackerman, Karen – *Song and Dance Man***

Grandpa used to be a vaudeville man. Enjoy his command attic performance with his grandchildren.

**Azarian, Mary and Jacqueline Briggs Martin – *Snowflake Bentley***

A true story of William Bentley, the first man to study snowflakes and capture their images with photography, this story illustrates the rewards of perseverance, and patience in the pursuit of personal dreams.

**Bemelmans, Ludwig – *Madeline***

“In an old house in Paris that was covered with vines...” lived Madeline. Join Madeline and her boarding school buddies as they discover the treasures of Paris and

trouble their nervous headmistress, Miss Clavel.

**Bishop, Claire H. – *Five Chinese Brothers***

Disobedience has drastic consequences for a tyke in this tall tale.

**Brett, Jan – *The Mitten***

When a little boy receives new white mittens from his grandmother, he is encouraged not to lose them in the snow. Inevitably, his carelessness overtakes him. In his absence the lost mitten becomes home to more than his hand!

**Brown, Marcia – *Stone Soup***

When stingy townsfolk refuse hospitality to some hungry soldiers, the clever men persuade them to share some stone soup with them.

**Brown, Margaret Wise – *Goodnight Moon***

In child’s voice, the text tells the tale of night-time leave-takings from dearly loved things.

**Brown, Margaret Wise – *Little Fur Family***

“There was a little fur family, warm as toast, smaller than most...” So begins this small tale about a day in the life of a small bear.

**Brown, Margaret Wise – *The Runaway Bunny***

A little bunny wants to run away, but his wise mother bunny deters him with her loving determination to seek him out regardless of his ventures.

**Burton, Virginia – *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel***

When newer and fancier diggers replace the old steam shovels, Mike stubbornly refuses to replace his own, dear steam shovel, Mary Anne. Searching for work, he vows she can still dig more in a day than a passel of men can dig in a week. Learn the inherent value friendship lends to cast off things.

**Cohen, Barbara – *The Canterbury Tales, retold***

A group of medieval travelers on pilgrimage agree to entertain one another with stories of wit and wisdom on their trip to and from the shrine of St. Thomas Becket, with the best tale winning its teller a free meal upon their return. This beautifully illustrated re-telling of a few of Chaucer’s famous tales is written in the spirit of Chaucer’s original work. (“The General Prologue,” “The Wife of Bath, and “The Pardoner’s Tale”)

**Cooney, Barbara – *Chanticleer and the Fox***

A retelling of Geoffrey Chaucer’s “Nun’s Priest’s Tale” from his *Canterbury Tales*, a vain rooster and a cunning fox match wits. This beast fable contains a moral lesson about pride and vanity. It works beautifully to introduce older students to its more

difficult counterpart, Chaucer’s original version.

**Cooney, Barbara – *Miss Rumphius***

“Before you are old you must do something to make the world more beautiful.” So says little Miss Rumphius’s grandfather. After climbing the highest mountains and strolling on the farthest shores to survey nature’s grandeur, an aging Miss Rumphius makes her own contribution to the world’s beauty in her home town.

**Dr. Seuss – *Horton Hears a Who***

Horton the elephant is hearing things! At least that is what his neighbors believe. In fact, Horton’s big ears are picking up the cries of the Whos, minute creatures that live on a floating speck of dust. Horton, who appoints himself protector of the little universe, becomes a mouthpiece for the mute and a voice for the oppressed, proclaiming: “A person’s a person no matter how small!”

**Duvoisin, Roger – *Petunia***

When the sophomoric goose Petunia finds a book and pretends to be able to read it, she causes no end of trouble for herself and her animal friends. Posers never prosper!

**Eastman, Philip D. – *Are You My Mother?***

A newly hatched nestling searches for his mother in unusual places.

**Falconer, Ian – *Olivia***

Art driven, this simple story excels in characterization. Words and pictures combine to effect irony through understatement. Follow precocious, style conscious, energetic Olivia through a typical day of activity.

**Flack, Marjorie and Kurt Wiese – *The Story About Ping***

While diving for a fish one evening, the little duckling Ping misses the boatman's call to come aboard. Fearing retribution, he hides in the reeds along the bank and is left behind. Alone for the first time on the river, Ping encounters a host of greater terrors in the other animals and boatmen,

**Fox, Mem – *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge***

Wilfred, who lives next to an old folks' home, is puzzled when he hears that his best friend, Mrs. Delacourt, has lost her memory. Join him on his quest to restore it.

**Freeman, Don – *Dandelion***

When Dandelion the lion makes a dandy of himself for a party with the gang, his dearest friends fail to recognize him. A lesson in being oneself.

**Gramatky, Haardie – *Little Toot***

Little Toot is tugboat in training. Frolicking irresponsibly in the surf, he becomes a nuisance to others, endangering many lives until discipline shames him, and he rises to the occasion to save the day.

**Hall, Donald and Barbara Cooney – *Ox-Cart Man***

Follow a self-sufficient farm family through a year of seasons.

**Hoban, Russell and Lillian – *A Bargain for Frances***

Young Frances learns a valuable lesson in friendship and honesty when her sometime friend and oft-time foe cheats her out of some money she had been saving for a china tea set "with pictures all in blue."

**Hoban, Russell and Lillian – *Bedtime for Frances***

Little Frances can't sleep. Alert and perpetually distracted by her fertile imagination, she pesters her parents until her father reminds her of the consequences for disobedience.

**Hoban, Russell and Lillian – *Bread and Jam for Frances***

Another Frances delight! This time Frances, a bread and jam girl, realizes that variety truly is the spice of life.

**Hoberman, Mary Ann – *A House is A House For Me***

Rhyming throughout, this book is an exploration of metaphor. The musical cadences it creates and the interesting perspective the comparisons provide make children giggle with delight.

**Hodges, Margaret – *Saint George and the Dragon***

Visit the medieval period with this beautifully retold and handsomely illustrated legend of an English Christian crusader who slew a dragon that was menacing a foreign village.

**Krauss, Ruth – *The Carrot Seed***

When a little boy plants a carrot seed, his entire family contends that it won't come up! Even so, he waters and cares for the seed, believing that his efforts will be rewarded. A lesson in faith.

**Leaf, Munro – *The Story of Ferdinand***

Unlike other bulls his age, Ferdinand is passive and placid by nature. When an encounter with a bee makes him snort and stomp, bull fighters mistake him for a fierce

fighter and whisk him off to the bullring in Madrid.

**Lionni, Leo – *The Biggest House in the World***

When a small snail declares to his father his desire to have the biggest house in the world, his father enlightens him with a moral tale about a snail who experiences the consequences of building too big.

**MacLachlan, Patricia – *All the Places to Love***

A young boy poetically depicts the ties that bind a family to a plot of ground for generations.

**McCloskey, Robert – *Blueberries for Sal***

When little Sal and her mother go berry picking on Blueberry Hill, they find that humans are not the only ones who store fruit for winter!

**McCloskey, Robert – *Make Way for Ducklings***

Once Mr. and Mrs. Mallard have found the perfect spot for laying their eggs, they settle in for the imminent arrival of Jack, Kack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Oack, Pack, and Quack! Also by McCloskey: *Time of Wonder*, *Lentil*, *One Morning in Maine*

**Milne, A.A. and E.H. Shepard – *Winnie-the-Pooh***

Join Christopher Robin and his animal friends for adventures in the Hundred-Acre-Wood in these heartwarming stories.

**Ness, Evaline – *Sam, Bangs & Moonshine***

Sam is a motherless girl whose fantastic imagination keeps her company during her fisherman father's long absences. When her fantasies endanger the lives of her favorite

cat and her neighbor friend Thomas, however, she discovers the importance of telling the truth.

**Pfister, Marcus – *The Rainbow Fish***

The rainbow fish bedazzles all the fish in his part of the sea with his brilliant and colorful scales. Although the other fish beg him to share some of his beauty, he refuses until loneliness changes his mind.

**Piper, Watty – *The Little Engine That Could***

When the train carrying food and toys to the children of a valley town breaks down, the littlest engine of all gladly assumes the big responsibility of getting it all there.

**Polacco, Patricia – *Thunder Cake***

A narrator recalls the day her grandmother helps her to overcome her fear of thunder. Also by Polacco: *The Keeping Quilt*, *Thank You Mr. Falker*, *The Bee Tree*, *Babushka Baba Yaga*, *My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother*, *Pink and Say*, *Chicken Sunday*, and *The Butterfly*.

**Potter, Beatrix – *The Tale of Peter Rabbit***

After a close scrape in Farmer McGregor's garden, disobedient Peter learns the value of heeding his mother's voice.

**Priceman, Marjorie – *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World***

With the local grocery closed for the day, a young girl travels the world to obtain key ingredients for her apple pie, inviting the international friends she meets along the way to share in the final product.

**Rylant, Cynthia – *Henry and Mudge***

This series of early readers showcases the growing affection between a boy and his dog – in this case a big, sloppy beast named Mudge.

**Rylant, Cynthia – *The Relatives Came***

When the relatives come, home seems unfamiliar, filled with strange smells, sounds, and people! The strangeness, however, is as welcome as they are, and a stranger silence fills the house when they depart.

**Sendak, Maurice – *Where the Wild Things Are***

When disobedient Max is sent to his room without his supper, he takes an imaginary journey to join other monsters like himself for a wild romp!

**Slobodkina, Esphyr – *Caps for Sale***

A cap peddler awakes from an afternoon nap to find his goods nabbed by some monkeys up to their usual business.

**Steig, William – *Amos & Boris***

When kindly whale Boris saves the little mouse Amos from drowning, he hardly expects to be repaid in kind, but he discovers that no creature is too small to offer great service to a friend in need.

**Steig, William – *Brave Irene***

With her seamstress mother sick in bed, Irene must brave the gathering storm to deliver the ball dress to the duchess in time for the ball.

**Stewart, Sarah and David Small – *The Gardener***

Set in the Great Depression, a young farm girl is sent to the city to work in her uncle's

bakery. There, her tenacious hope and joy root and grow in everyone she touches. Also by the author: *The Library* and *The Friend*.

**Tiller, Ruth – *Cinnamon, Mint and Mothballs: A Visit to Grandmother's House***

Full of sensory language and poetic imagery, a young girl remembers a visit to her grandmother's house.

**Turkle, Brinton – *Thy Friend, Obadiah***

When Obadiah frees a gull from some wire, he gains a faithful friend.

**Van Allsburg, Chris – *The Polar Express***

On Christmas Eve, a boy with doubts about Santa Claus takes a train trip to the North Pole and discovers the value of childlike faith. Also by Van Allsburg: *The Wreck of the Zephyr*, *Jumanji*, *The Wretched Stone*

**Waber, Bernard – *You Look Ridiculous Said the Rhinoceros to the Hippopotamus***

Idle words send an unfortunate hippo on a journey of self-discovery.

**Ward, Lynd – *The Biggest Bear***

When little Johnny Orchard, tired of losing face, declares he is going to hunt a bear to keep pace with the neighbors, he finds a friend instead. As his bear grows, Johnny must face a world of adult responsibilities. This coming of age story bears much resemblance to *The Yearling*, yet preserves a happy ending appropriate for its audience.

**Yolen, Jane – *All Those Secrets of the World***

Janie cries when her daddy must go to war, but she discovers that distance is a really a matter of perspective.

**Yolen, Jane – *Owl Moon***

A sensory treat, this story of a small child gone owling with her father captures a child's wonder of the world. More poem than story, this is a wonderful tool for teaching imagery, similes, metaphors, and sensory language.

**Ziefert, Harriet – *A New Coat for Anna***

Anna needs a new coat, but war makes provisions difficult to find. Follow the process her mother takes in bartering to obtain the prized possession, and learn with Anna patience, appreciation, and a mother's sacrificial love.

**Zolotow, Charlotte – *Big Sister and Little Sister***

Little sisters often become annoyed by their protective elder siblings. Yet, when one little sister secrets herself in a field of wildflowers, she finds her older sister's constant attentions stem from love.

**Zolotow, Charlotte – *Something is Going to Happen***

Experience the breathless anticipation and wonder of the first snow of the year through the pages of Charlotte Zolotow's book.

## Juvenile Fiction

### **Alcott, Louisa May – *Little Women***

Loosely based upon the life of the author, this narrative recounts the ambitions and struggles of the four March sisters growing up in Civil War era New England. Each sister struggles to be good, but is afflicted with some moral defect. Only kind Beth is content and good. When afflicted with scarlet fever she contracts while doing an act of charity, Beth suffers terribly, causing introspective Jo to ponder the goodness of God and wrestle with her own ambitions. Other books by Alcott include *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*.

### **Alexander, Lloyd – *The Book of Three***

Assistant Pig-Keeper Taran, frustrated with his humdrum existence in Caer Dallben, yearns for a warrior's life like his hero, Prince Gwydion. His wish comes all too true as he faces the evil leader who threatens the peace of Prydain: the Horned King. The first in a series of five books which culminates in Newbery Award-winning *The High King*.

### **Atwater, Richard and Florence – *Mr. Popper's Penguins***

When work slows for the winter, housepainter Mr. Popper finds it difficult to keep up with the expenses of his growing family. Receiving an unexpected gift of penguins from a friend, he and his family create a stage act to become a household name in entertainment and eliminate financial worries for good!

### **Babbitt, Natalie – *Tuck Everlasting***

Young Winnie encounters the Tucks, an unusual family who claim to have found the fountain of youth. Her relationship with them draws her into a dangerous adventure

and changes her perspective about ordinary life.

### **Banks, Lynne Reid – *The Indian in the Cupboard* (series)**

After placing his plastic, model Indian in an old cupboard he received for his birthday, a little boy finds his toy has come alive! The magical properties of his cupboard become evident when he changes other toys into living creatures as well. The novelty of this magic wears thin, however, as the boy discovers the monolithic responsibility of a creator.

### **Bibee, John – *The Magic Bicycle***

When John Kramar finds an old, rusty Spirit Flyer bicycle, he never suspects it to be magical. First, the bike helps him save a neighbor's barn from burning. Then it brings him into conflict with forces that want to destroy it. Join John on his fantastic ride to learn about the Magic in the bicycle and save his town.

### **Brink, Carol Ryrie – *Caddie Woodlawn***

Child of an American pioneer family, Caddie is a tomboy extraordinaire! Growing up running with her brothers in the woods around their Wisconsin homestead, Caddie's adventures depict nineteenth century frontier life during the American Civil War.

### **Burgess, Alan – *The Small Woman***

This biography chronicles the life of Gladys Aylward, a British Christian missionary to China, who led more than 100 children over the mountains to safety in 1938 during the Japanese invasion of China.

**Burnett, Frances Hodgson – *The Secret Garden***

Hodgson’s characterization of a sour British girl who is orphaned in Africa and packed home to live with her absent and dour uncle in his gloomy castle on a moor continues to enchant readers. The quiet joy of country life, combined with the mysterious dual discovery of both a sickly cousin and a forgotten, walled garden, provide our orphan castoff with opportunities to see beyond herself. Learning the joy of giving, she embraces life, touching off an epidemic of miraculous resurrections and restorations of the heart! Other books by Burnett include *A Little Princess* and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

**Burnford, Sheila – *The Incredible Journey***

Three lost pets find their way across an incredible distance to be reunited with their lost family.

**Burroughs, Edgar Rice – *Tarzan***

Boys still devour these stories of the chest beating ape-man, raised by gorillas when his own family was slaughtered and grown to be lord of the jungle.

**Cleary, Beverly – *Henry and Ribsy***

Henry has always wanted a dog, but he did not expect that keeping Ribsy out of trouble would prove a full-time job. Also by Cleary: *Henry and Beezus*, *Ramona the Pest*, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, *Runaway Ralph*.

**Dalgliesh, Alice - *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain***

Short chapters make this a friendly book for a young reader. Follow a boy on an errand over the forested hill of his home to borrow a cast iron pot from his aunt. On the way, he will discover if there really are bears on Hemlock Mountain.

**Dalgliesh, Alice – *The Courage of Sarah Noble***

Meet a daughter of the American Revolution. Orphaned and alone, she must make her way amid the terrors of the New England countryside in wartime.

**Dahl, Roald – *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***

When poor Charlie Bucket finds a golden ticket, he and his grandfather embark on a life-changing tour of Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory. Also by Dahl: *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*, and *Danny, The Champion of the World*.

**De Angeli, Marguerite – *A Door in the Wall***

His father at war and his mother at court, a young master of the house is left at home awaiting an escort to his new post as apprentice. An unidentified illness, however, strikes him down and leaves him lame. When the remaining servants fall prey to the Black Plague, the needy boy is cared for by a monk who teaches him how to overcome adversity.

**Dixon, Franklin W. – *The Hardy Boys series***

Frank and Joe Hardy team up to solve countless mysteries in this series for young boys. The older books in the series are the best, as they are unaffected by twenty-first century political correctness.

**Doyle, Arthur Conan – *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes***

Famed Scotland Yard detective Sherlock Holmes solves a variety of murders and mysteries and always gets his man through “elementary” reasoning.

**Edmonds, Walter – *The Matchlock Gun***

The heart-thumping story of a young boy who defends his mother and sister against an Indian raid during the American French and Indian War. A testimony to the importance of obedience.

**Estes, Eleanor – *The Moffats***

These adventures of children in a single-parent family reinforce the providential nature of life. Also by Estes: *The Middle Moffat*, *Ginger Pye*, and *The Hundred Dresses*.

**Field, Rachel – *Calico Bush***

In this work of historical fiction, thirteen-year-old Maggie, orphaned by her parents in the New World, finds herself forced into indentured servitude and must move with her new family to the wilds of Maine.

**Fitzgerald, John D. – *The Great Brain***

These stories narrate the adventures of boy genius Tom D. Fitzgerald as related by his younger brother John, two boys growing up in Adenville, Utah, at the close of the nineteenth century. The first in a series of must read adventures!

**Forbes, Esther – *Johnny Tremain***

Johnny is a talented but arrogant silver-smith's apprentice of Revolutionary era Boston whose life is turned upside-down when he injures his hand. In time he becomes a messenger boy on horseback for the Sons of Liberty and an eyewitness to the historic events surrounding the Revolution.

**Fritz, Jean – *The Cabin Faced West***

In this story of early America, young Ann Hamilton and her family move West to stake a claim and carve a life out of the

wilderness. Paced appropriately for early readers.

**Gannett, Ruth S. – *My Father's Dragon***

Elmer Elevator journeys to far away Wild Island to rescue a dragon enslaved by island natives. This is an easy chapter book for young readers.

**Gates, Doris – *Blue Willow***

Set in Depression Era California, a migrant family and their little girl, Janey Lark, long for a home and permanence.

**George, Jean Craighead – *My Side of the Mountain***

A teenage boy leaves home to live a solitary life in the Catskill Mountain wilderness. Through his efforts to survive, he learns the value of independence and self-sufficiency.

**Gilbreth, Frank and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey – *Cheaper By the Dozen***

Frank and Ernestine recollect their experiences growing up in a family of twelve. Their larger-than-life father and rock-steady mother provided them with all the warmth, love, and stability necessary to grow to maturity.

**Gipson, Fred – *Old Yeller***

A stray dog finds a place as protector of a family in the wilds of Texas.

**Grahame, Kenneth – *The Wind in the Willows***

Follow the rollicking adventures of Mr. Toad of Toad Hall and his most loyal, dear friends Badger, Mole, and Ratty. Rich with the sights and smells of the English countryside and replete with descriptions of prototypical picnics, the atmospheric

qualities of this episodic narrative are in themselves enough to recommend it.

**Grahame, Kenneth – *The Reluctant Dragon* (with pictures by E. H. Shepard).**

Clear and imaginative, Grahame's main character is an intelligent boy who happens upon a dragon that refuses to be, well, dragonish. When legendary hero St. George comes to town, the dragon applies to the boy to intercede.

**Gray, Elizabeth Janet – *Adam of the Road***

Adam loves his little dog almost as much as he loves his talented and gregarious father, a minstrel in medieval England. When separated from them both on a road trip, Adam is forced to use his wits and his talents to care for himself and regain his family.

**Henry, Marguerite – *Misty of Chincoteague***

Two young residents of Assateague Island are determined to find and secure the Phantom, the mysterious and elusive wild horse of Chincoteague Island, for their own.

**Holling, Holling C. – *Paddle-to-the-Sea***

Seemingly misplaced in the juvenile book list, this is a story of the travels of a small, hand-carved toy canoe, fearlessly manned by the wooden Indian carved into him. Though it is a picture book, the richly detailed text provides a wonderful backdrop for geography lessons. Also by Holling: *Seabird*.

**Hunt, Irene – *Across Five Aprils***

Set in the Civil War era, a young boy experiences the the war that divides the nation when his brothers enlist with opposing sides. An extraordinarily well-told coming of age story.

**Juster, Norton – *The Phantom Tollbooth***

When a bored youngster drives through a mysterious tollbooth that magically appears in his bedroom, he finds himself in Dictionopolis, an allegorical land full of surprises and life lessons.

**Keene, Carolyn – *Nancy Drew stories***

Heroine Nancy Drew is the Sherlock in this mystery series for young girls. These are the counterparts to *Hardy Boys Mysteries* for boys. Look for the older ones; they are the best!

**Keith, Harold – *Rifles for Watie***

In this coming-of-age Civil War drama, the main character, Jeff, goes undercover behind enemy lines, allowing him to see the war from the perspectives of both the north and the south. He discovers that there are men of principle on both sides of the battle; how will he choose between them?

**Kipling, Rudyard – *The Jungle Book***

These seven unique short stories feature talking animals – some in the jungle, others in far north. Each teaches some character quality or principle. One teaches “jungle law,” another the value of duty, still another the importance of courage. The riveting story of “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi,” a faithful mongoose, is perhaps the best known of this book.

**Konigsburg, E. L. – *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***

Two runaways find shelter in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art where they become gripped in an art mystery.

**L'Engle, Madeleine – *A Wrinkle in Time* and series**

The Wallace children, together with their friend Calvin, journey through a tesseract to find their missing father. Together they encounter strange forces of evil that threaten to prevent them from accomplishing their aims. Other books in this series include *A Wind In the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, and *Many Waters*.

**Lamb, Charles and Mary – *Tales from Shakespeare***

Lamb's Tales are accessible narrative retellings of a few of Shakespeare's most celebrated plays. Clearly related, these stories introduce new readers to some of Shakespeare's greatest plots, laying the groundwork for deeper study of the original works of the master.

**Lawson, Robert – *Rabbit Hill***

This challenging book is a vocabulary builder for young readers! Lawson's sensitive portrayal of a community of rabbits upset by the coming of new land owners is, in places, reminiscent of the *Brer Rabbit* stories of the South. Will the new folks be friendly to the local wildlife? Also by Lawson: *Ben and Me*, and *Mr. Revere and I*.

**Leaf, Munro – *Wee Gillis***

Written by the author of the beloved children's book *Ferdinand*, this is the story of a Scottish boy born to a Lowlander and a Highlander, who must decide for himself with which clan to identify. Again, this story is an accessible read for early chapter book readers.

**Lenski, Lois – *Strawberry Girl***

The story of a Florida Cracker girl and her childhood on a farm. A Newbery Award winner.

**Lewis, C. S. – *The Chronicles of Narnia***

This enchanting allegorical series follows four children on their magical adventures to the land of Narnia, where good and evil battle for supremacy. There they learn important truths about themselves and become acquainted with Aslan, the Narnia's good and rightful king.

**Lindgren, Astrid – *Pippi Longstocking***

This series follows the delightful antics of the strongest girl in the world – independent, high spirited, and in charge of things in her seafaring father's absence.

**MacDonald, George – *The Princess and the Goblin***

A young miner, Curdie, overhears the goblins' plan to invade the kingdom and unseat the king; with the help of Princess Irene and her great-great-grandmother, he must stop them. This fantasy/fairy tale extols the virtues of faith, honesty, courage, and honor. Its author was profoundly influential on C.S. Lewis. Also by MacDonald: *The Princess and Curdie*, *At the Back of the North Wind*, and *The Light Princess*.

**MacLachlan, Patricia – *Sarah, Plain and Tall***

A mail-order bride becomes the lynchpin of her new Midwestern plains family. Also by this author, *Skylark*.

**McSwigan, Marie – *Snow Treasure***

Set in World War II, the brave children of a Norwegian village help to secret the contents of the national treasury out of the country on their sleds in order to keep it from their German oppressors. Based on a true story.

**Merrill, Jean – *The Pushcart War***

This satirical account of a feud between New York pushcart operators and the semi-trucks that congest the city suggests with humor the conflict of interest that lies at the heart of every war.

**Milne, A. A. – *Winnie the Pooh***

Written for Milne's son Christopher, these tender and imaginative stories encompass the hilarious journeys and madcap mishaps of the residents of the Hundred Acre Wood. After meeting Pooh, Piglet, Owl, Tigger, Eeyore, Rabbit, Kanga, and Roo, your child will never be the same.

**Montgomery, L. M. – *Anne of Green Gables (series)***

Precocious orphan Anne with an "e" is taken in by Marilla and Matthew, who discover in their act of charity that they need her more than they knew.

**Morey, Walt – *Gentle Ben***

Mark's attachment to a brown bear held in captivity and abused by a local neighbor is jeopardized when well-meaning neighbors discover the situation.

**Mowat, Farley – *Owls in the Family***

A hilarious series of anecdotes centering upon the addition of two owlets, Wol and Weeps, to young Billy's virtual zoo of family pets. Also by Mowat: *Never Cry Wolf*, *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*, *The Snow Walker*, and *A Whale for the Killing*.

**Neimark, Anne E. – *Touch of Light: The Story of Louis Braille***

When his eye is punctured during childhood, Louis goes blind. Hindered but not thwarted, Louis succeeds in finding a way to read and shares this with others with impaired vision.

**Nesbit, Edith – *The Enchanted Castle***

Some displaced children stumble upon a magical castle and a not so magical princess during one of their holidays. Also by Nesbit: *Five Children and It*, *The Railway Children*, and *The Treasure Seekers*

**O'Brien, Robert – *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH***

When Mrs. Frisby's son comes down with pneumonia just before spring plowing, she is unable to evacuate her field home. She applies to the rats of NIMH for help. These laboratory rats, super-intelligent from their use in a scientific experiment, have escaped from captivity and established an advanced community in the farmer's rose bush. Together with Mrs. Frisby, they pit their intellects against their greatest common foe, man.

**O'Dell, Scott – *Island of the Blue Dolphins***

When a young girl is unintentionally abandoned on an island during one of her tribe's occasional outings, she is forced to learn survival skills. Also by O'Dell: the sequel *Zia*, *Sarah Bishop*, *Streams to the River*, *River to the Sea*, *The King's Fifth*, and *The Black Pearl*.

**Pyle, Howard – *Otto of the Silver Hand***

Pyle tells the story of Otto, a child caught in the crossfire of violence and malice between two robber barons, his father, and a neighbor, during the medieval period. Also by Pyle: *The Story of Sir Lancelot and His Companions*, *Some Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, and *The Story of King Arthur and His Knights*.

**Rackham, Arthur, and C. S. Evans – *Cinderella***

Ella is a well-born girl, bereft of her mother, and emotionally abandoned by her father to

the abuse of her new step-mother and step-sisters. Her gentleness and submissive nature are rewarded by the favor and protection of a fairy godmother, who aids her in her mother's absence.

**Rawls, Wilson – *Where the Red Fern Grows***

Billy saves and buys two coonhounds for a song; they become priceless, loyal defenders of the family. A boy's rite of passage, this book is a tale of love and responsibility.

**Robinson, Barbara – *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***

Meet the Herdman family. They are ornery, raucous, and plentiful, and they have come to take over the annual church Christmas pageant. Hark, the herald Herdmans sing! Will the community survive them? Also by Robinson: *The Best School Year Ever*.

**Selden, George – *The Cricket in Times Square***

A misplaced cricket finds himself in the Times Square subway station. There he befriends Mario, a young boy whose family owns a newspaper stand; Tucker, a mouse; and Harry, a cat. Together the four work to save the family newsstand from bankruptcy.

**Sewall, Marcia – *The Pilgrims of Plimoth***

This first-person narration recounts the experiences of the New England Puritans from their own point of view.

**Sewell, Anna – *Black Beauty***

Black Beauty, a horse, tells his life story in episodic chapters.

**Speare, Elizabeth George – *The Bronze Bow***

This piece of historical fiction explores the nature and effects of bitterness and hatred and the miraculous healing of forgiveness. A Newbery winner, it is a tender account of a wounded child's journey to maturity. Other books by Speare: *The Sign of the Beaver*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* (also a Newbery winner), and *Calico Captive*.

**Sperry, Armstrong – *Call It Courage***

Author of some of the most gripping adventure stories ever written, Sperry tells the story of a young boy and his unflinching fight with fear. Also by Sperry: *The Black Falcon*, *All Sails Set: A Romance of the Flying Cloud*, and *Thunder Country*.

**Spyri, Johanna – *Heidi***

The uplifting story of an orphan girl and the profound influence of her buoyant spirit and unconditional love upon her grandfather.

**Sterling, Dorothy – *Freedom Train***

The moving true story of Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave who returned to the South repeatedly to secret more than 300 slaves to freedom using the Underground Railroad.

**Taylor, Mildred - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***

A good look at the realities of racial tension in 1940's Mississippi, this Newbery Award winning book tells the story of the Logans, who boycott a local store to protest racial violence and incur the wrath of their neighbors.

**Tolkien, J.R.R. – *The Hobbit***

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit – a wee one, content to live out his life in the obscurity of his humble home in the Shire. When the

great wizard Gandalf raps on his door, however, he finds himself pushed into the wilds and an adventure of epic proportions. Dragons and goblins and giants and darkness assail him in his quest to burgle the avaricious and thieving dragon of the mountain in order to return his horde to the dwarves, who claim rightful ownership of the loot. Bilbo acquires a magical ring along the way, which aids him in his journey and resurfaces in Tolkien's more mature trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*, written for older readers.

**Twain, Mark – *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***

Precocious Tom Sawyer is peerless when it comes to wit and humor. Twain paints a nostalgic picture of the vicissitudes of boyhood in this timeless classic. Other books by Twain include: *Huckleberry Finn*

**Warner, Gertrude C. – *The Boxcar Children***

A family of orphaned children determine to stay together and out of the custody of governmental officials who might divvy them out to various family members. Finding shelter in an abandoned boxcar, the elder children care for the younger.

**White, E. B. – *Charlotte's Web***

Charlotte is an astounding arachnid! When she appears one morning in the door of

Wilbur's lonely barn, the little pig's life is forever changed. Through Charlotte, the runt of the litter discovers personal value, potential, and the nature of true friendship.

**White, E. B. – *The Trumpet of the Swan***

When a cygnet is born without a voice, his father determines to rectify the situation. Robbing a local music store, he obtains a trumpet to be his son's voice. Mastering this device, the intelligent bird resolves to earn money as an entertainer to reimburse the music store owner.

**Wiggin, Kate Douglas – *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm***

Discover the classic Mark Twain called the best story of American literature. Rebecca, sent from home to live with her two aunts, charms readers with her imagination and high spirits. Overcoming adversity, she grows to become an independent woman.

**Wilder, Laura Ingalls - *Little House on the Prairie* series**

Laura Ingalls Wilder revisits her childhood on the frontier in this beloved series of children's classics.

**Wyss, Johann David – *Swiss Family Robinson***

A shipwrecked family works together to survive on a desert island until help can arrive.

## High School Fiction

### **Adams, Richard – *Watership Down***

Spurred on by the prophetic visions of their companion Fiver, Hazel, Bigwig, and the other rabbits flee their comfortable warren to avoid an unnamed, impending destruction. Their subsequent journey to find a new home explores the themes of leadership, courage, and loyalty – and raises thoughtful questions about the nature of a good society. A heart-thumping, provocative adventure about so much more than bunnies.

### **Austen, Jane – *Pride and Prejudice***

Elizabeth lives in a period in which a girl's only hope was to marry well. Unable to inherit from fathers and husbands, women were forced to hope in the kindness of their male relations for subsistence. Initially put off by social prejudices, proud Mr. Darcy ultimately finds himself drawn to Miss Bennett's straightforward honesty and simple wisdom. Licking her own wounded pride, she rejects his advances. Yet when a wandering eye draws her younger sister into a promiscuous affair, Elizabeth must rely on Darcy's kindness to make matters right. Not only a period romance, but also a social satire, this timeless classic rewards rereading. Also by Austen: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Persuasion*, and *Northanger Abbey*.

### ***Beowulf***

This early English epic recounts the exploits of Norse hero Beowulf. First a warrior, he fights against the vicious and murderous monster Grendel; later a king, he confronts a fiery dragon. With its syncretistic Christian and pagan elements, *Beowulf* explores the role of king and warrior in fifth- and sixth-century Scandinavia.

### **Bradbury, Ray – *The Martian Chronicles***

Post-apocalyptic science fiction about the destruction of earth through nuclear explosion and the colonization of Mars, this series of short stories were initially published serially for magazines.

### **Bronte, Charlotte – *Jane Eyre***

Orphaned Jane is shipped off to live in an intolerably harsh asylum for castoff girls; she longs for love. The darkness of her life, however, does not quench her gentle spirit, but rather produces character, perseverance, and love.

### **Cather, Willa – *My Antonia***

Set in the early American West, an immigrant family must make a living in an inhospitable terrain.

### **Chaucer, Geoffrey – *The Canterbury Tales***

Pilgrims off to see the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket agree to entertain one another with stories on their journey and to reward the narrator of the best story with a free meal upon their return. In this way, the tales are born. Their subjects and themes betray the character and nature of their tellers, giving the reader a glimpse into the personalities of the Middle Ages and likewise demonstrating the timeless nature of man. This literary gem is a relic of its period for the historian and etymologist as it represents the first literary work ever written in the English vernacular. It is well-paired with Barbara Cohen's adaptation, which is beautifully illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman.

**Conrad, Joseph – *Heart of Darkness***

A profound study of the sinfulness of man, this story involves the protagonist Marlowe's journey into imperial Britain's outposts in the African jungle. Expecting to find Britain's benevolent rule civilizing savages, he is dismayed to discover British brutality instead, enslaving the natives and using them for commercial gain.

**Cooper, James Fenimore – *The Last of the Mohicans***

The first great American novel, Cooper's sweeping epic portrays the clash of civilizations that took place during the 1750's French and Indian War in vivid and gripping detail. "Noble Savages" confront savage Europeans, and the hero must choose between the two civilizations.

**Costain, Thomas – *The Silver Chalice***

Based on legends of the years following Jesus's crucifixion, this novel describes the life and travels of Basil, the artisan who fashioned the silver chalice that held the sacred cup from which Jesus drank at the Last Supper.

**Crane, Stephen – *The Red Badge of Courage***

In this masterpiece of literary realism and naturalism, journalist Stephen Crane imagines the effects of the American Civil War on the idealism of a young enlisted man, and in so doing contemplates the legitimacy of universal truth itself. Also by Crane: *The Blue Hotel* and *The Open Boat*.

**D'Orczy, Baroness – *The Scarlet Pimpernel***

Set during the French Revolution, this story follows the movements of a mysterious hero, who secrets aristocrats and other targets of the revolutionaries out of the

country. His infamous exploits become the pulp of gossip in the English social circles frequented by newly married Marguerite, who wishes she had married the mysterious fellow instead of her own, dull spouse.

**Dante – *The Divine Comedy***

The first literary work ever to be written in the Italian vernacular, Dante's *Comedy*, a work in three books, narrates the author's imaginative and enlightening journey through the regions of Hell, up Mount Purgatory, and into the inner precincts of Paradise where he discovers the proper object and source of love. The work includes *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*.

**Defoe, Daniel – *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe***

A shipwrecked young man's struggle to survive on a deserted island forces him to re-evaluate his religious beliefs.

**Dickens, Charles – *Great Expectations***

Orphan Pip, a common boy who lives with his aunt and uncle, dreams of being a gentleman. When his ambitions are realized by an undisclosed benefactor, he forgets his roots and takes on airs, hoping to attract the attentions of high-born and disdainful Estella. A startling examination of love, betrayal, and respect, Dickens's coming of age story depicts the true meaning of "gentleman." Also by Dickens: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Bleak House* and others.

**Dillard, Annie – *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek***

This collection of first-person essays narrates a year-long Walden-esque experience in which the persona explores the natural world through imagery in a poetic attempt to better divine the nature of God.

**Dumas, Alexandre – *The Three Musketeers***

A swashbuckling suspense tale of three daring defenders of King Louis XIII, and their youthful and idealistic protégé, D'Artagnan, the Three Musketeers combines romance and intrigue to create a fantastically entertaining adventure story of the battle between good and evil in pre-Revolution era France. Also by Dumas: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*

**Forester, C. S. – *Lieutenant Hornblower***

Eleven volumes of high seas adventure set in the Napoleonic Wars follow the naval career of Horatio Hornblower. See: *The Happy Return*, *Ship of the Line*, *Flying Colours*, *The Commodore*, *Lord Hornblower*, *Mr. Midshipman Hornblower*, *Lieutenant Hornblower*, *Hornblower and the Atropos*, *Hornblower in the West Indies*, *Hornblower and the Hotspur*, and *Hornblower During the Crisis*.

**H. G. Wells – *The Invisible Man***

In this psychological thriller, a young scientist must face the consequences of his experiments. After using himself as the subject of experimental research, the scientist discovers the key to invisibility; yet, he is unable to reverse the effects.

**Hawthorne, Nathaniel – *The Scarlet Letter***

Set in Puritan New England, this story traces the effects of hidden and confessed sin in the lives of Hester Prynne and the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale.

**Hemingway, Ernest – *The Old Man and the Sea***

A master of modern American prose, Hemingway's rejection of Christianity is borne out in the nihilistic worldview his

works espouse. With no Christian redemption, grace under pressure becomes the character quality most prized. In this short novella, Santiago, an old fisherman plagued by bad luck, catches the largest marlin of his career only to lose it to sharks on his trip to shore. His fight to survive and make sense of the thing forms the substance of the narrative. Also by Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises*, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and other short stories. His short play, "Today Is Friday," is perhaps one of his most revealing works.

**Henry, O. – "*The Ransom of Red Chief*" and other short stories**

When two ne'er-do-wells kidnap a boy for ransom, they are surprised to find themselves the victims of extortion. A master of his genre, O. Henry distinguishes himself time and again in his collection of short stories, each demonstrating unique humor and a developed sense of irony. Modern Library's *The Best Short Stories of O. Henry* includes 600 of his shorts, including: "The Ransom of Red Chief," "The Gift of the Magi," and "The Last Leaf."

**Henty, G. A. – *The Cat of Bubastes***

Set in ancient Egypt, this work of historical fiction follows a conquered prince into servitude in an Egyptian household where, together with his master's son, he seeks to cover up the unintentional slaying of a cat deemed sacred and exposes the deceit and trickery of temple priests, stumbling into a murderous plot against his master's life. Other notable Henty books include: *Beric the Briton*, *In Freedom's Cause*, *The Dragon and the Raven*, *For the Temple*, and *Winning His Spurs*.

**Herriot, James – *All Creatures Great and Small***

English country veterinarian James Herriot writes of his daily interactions with all of God's great creatures. Also by the author, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *All Things Wise and Wonderful*.

**Heyerdahl, Thor – *Kon-Tiki***

A 101-day journey across the Pacific on a balsa wood raft to prove an historical theory made history of its own in April of 1947. Battling sharks and leaks and the elements, Heyerdahl and his crew lived one of the greatest ocean adventures of all time.

**Hilton, James – *Good-bye, Mr. Chips***

Dear old Chips, the English schoolmaster, found personal worth and usefulness in spite of his unremarkability. Few are great. Most are common, but mediocrity is not failure. An average life leaves ripples in the lives of many.

**Homer – *The Iliad***

When Menelaus's beloved wife Helen is carried off by Paris the Trojan, all Helen's erstwhile suitors band together to retrieve her. Thus follows the siege of Troy, the exploits of the soldier, Odysseus, and the tragic story of the anti-hero, Achilles, the stories of which comprise the Trojan War Cycle. In the *Iliad*, Achilles, deprived of his war trophy, withdraws from the battle to sulk by his black ships. Nothing assuages his bitter wrath. When his best friend volunteers to take his place at the front and is struck down by the Trojan warrior Hektor, Achilles re-enters the fray, intent on revenge. Homer lays the human condition bare in this beautiful and captivating epic.

**Homer – *The Odyssey***

A sequel to *The Iliad*, this narrative recounts the adventures and exploits of the Achaean hero Odysseus on his ten-year journey home from the Trojan War. Opposed by the god Poseidon and the sea nymph Calypso, Odysseus languishes on a Mediterranean island until the gods pity him and speed him home to Ithaca to rescue his wife and son from the thralls of wicked suitors who impose in his absence.

**Hugo, Victor – *Les Miserables***

Imprisoned for nineteen years for stealing bread to feed his starving family, Jean Valjean returns to an unforgiving society. Yet the kindness and mercy of a local churchman sets him on a noble path to become an epic hero. Hugo imbues his novel with an understanding of the nature of the Law and the redemptive power of self-sacrificial grace.

**Irving, Washington – *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow***

After being rebuffed by the damsel Katrina, schoolmaster Ichabod Crane rides off on his landlord's horse, sees an apparition of a headless horseman, and disappears. Also by Irving: *Rip Van Winkle*

**Jacques, Brian – *Redwall* (series)**

In the tradition of Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, Jacques' *Redwall* series teems with talking beasts on important quests. Meet Matthias, a church mouse destined for greatness. Epic in its scope, the battle between good and evil rages within the pages of these stories.

**Kipling, Rudyard – *Captains Courageous***

Harvey Cheyne is the over-indulged son of a millionaire. When he falls overboard from an ocean liner, he is rescued by a Portuguese

fishing boat and is forced to work for his passage home.

**Latham, Jean Lee – *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch***

The biography of a math genius thrust into indentured servitude by a family that could not support him, Latham's novel depicts the humility, determination, and industry that shape the American identity in the person of Nathaniel Bowditch.

**Lee, Harper – *To Kill a Mockingbird***

Lee's tale of a young girl's journey to maturity in Depression-era Alabama is imbued with warmth, humor, and wisdom. Until the recent release of the story's short prequel *Go Set a Watchman*, this treasure remained Lee's one gift to the world.

**Lewis, C. S. – *The Space Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, and That Hideous Strength***

Lewis's space trilogy follows philologist Elwin Ransom through his space travels and ponders timeless questions of ethics, truth, and spirituality.

**Lewis, C. S. – *The Great Divorce***

The narrator, a ghost from the outskirts of hell, takes a day-trip to the outskirts of heaven, the solid land. There he witnesses conversations between the other ghosts and the solid people who travel down the mountain to meet them. In this theodicy, evocative of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Lewis probes the nature of God, man, and redemption. A mind-stretching masterpiece. Also by Lewis: *The Screwtape Letters*, *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*, and many more works.

**London, Jack – *The Call of the Wild***

Naturalist Jack London tells some bleak tales of the dominance of Nature over man; yet, his accounts are exquisitely written and adventure packed. Also by London: *White Fang*, and a plethora of short stories including "To Build A Fire," the most gripping account of that particular activity ever written.

**MacLean, Alistair – *The Guns of Navarone***

Set among the islands of the Aegean during WWII, Navarone is the story of a team of allied saboteurs on an impossible mission: infiltrate an impregnable Nazi-held island and destroy the two enormous long-range field guns that prevent the rescue of 2,000 trapped British soldiers.

**Marshall, Catherine – *Christy***

Christy, a 19-year-old Christian woman, becomes a missionary schoolmistress in the back hills of Tennessee's Smoky Mountains. There the mountain people challenge her compassion and faith, even as the town's doctor and preacher draw her heart.

**Milton, John – *Paradise Lost***

One of Western literature's five great epic poems, *Paradise Lost* dramatizes the story of the Fall of Man in language of unsurpassed beauty and power.

**Orwell, George – *Animal Farm***

Orwell paints a vivid picture of a violent political revolution; farm animals unite against the farmer who owns all, works the animal population hard, feeds them little, and sends their offspring to slaughter. Written in 1954, *Animal Farm's* characters were inspired by the figures of the Russian Revolution. An allegory, the story

artistically exposes the results of Stalinist Socialism.

**Porter, Gene Stratton – *A Girl of the Limberlost***

Loveless Elnora lives alone with her bitter and cold mother. Ambitious to make something of her life, she diligently pursues an education, funding it with the specimens she collects in the swamp. Along the way she discovers friendship, love, and a truth about the past which frees her mother to love her.

**Potok, Chaim – *The Chosen***

Reuven and Danny come from rival sects of Judaism; their unlikely friendship becomes a vehicle for Danny's entry into the secular world and a doorway into Reuven's own rabbinical calling. Set in World War II Brooklyn, the story is an eloquent examination of loyalty, friendship and conviction.

**Pyle, Howard – *Men of Iron***

In this adventure-packed tale of fifteenth-century England, young Myles Falworth wins a reputation for courage and independence while still in training at the castle of the great Earl of Mackworth. When he discovers that his blind father had been condemned for treason and is still being hunted by a powerful enemy who is close to the king, he must risk ordeal by battle to win back his family's honor.

**Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan – *The Yearling***

Perhaps the most beautifully crafted account of a boy's coming-of-age ever written, this is the story of Jody Baxter, a penniless boy from the Florida Everglades, who takes a yearling deer as a pet. His family's fight for survival together with the boy's ardent love

for his pet build to create an internal conflict within Jody that transforms him into a man.

**Reeves, James – *Exploits of Don Quixote***

Meet the "beknighted" anti-hero of La Mancha who jousts at windmills and his kind and caring friend, Sancho Panza, in this retelling of Cervantes's classic tale.

**Richter, Conrad – *The Light in the Forest***

Taken captive by Indians as a young boy, young John is raised as a Lenni Lenape. When a government trade returns him to his true home again, feelings of displacement and uncertainties about his own identity rise to the surface.

**Shakespeare, William – *The Riverside Shakespeare***

Shakespeare's works have delighted and inspired readers for generations. While his identity is hotly debated, readers agree that his literary talent remains unsurpassed. Drawn largely from Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, these plays fall loosely into three categories – tragedies, comedies, and histories. Start with *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, or *Romeo and Juliet*, and don't stop before you have read them all!

**Stevenson, Robert Louis – *Treasure Island***

After meeting an old pirate at his mother's inn, young Jim is whisked into a surreal, high sea expedition, fraught with terrors and piracy, to seek a buried treasure. Along the way, his acquaintance of one Long John Silver challenges his perception of reality and forces him to maturity. Also by Stevenson: *Kidnapped*, *The Black Arrow*.

**Ten Boom, Corrie – *The Hiding Place***

In this autobiographical novel set in Holland during WWII, the Ten Boom family hides Jews and political prisoners from Nazi persecution. This act of kindness makes them, too, the target of Nazi aggression. This profound true story of bitterness and redemption, written by the woman who lived through it, explores the love and provision of God in the midst of pain and suffering and the liberating value of forgiveness.

**Tolkien, J.R.R. translation – *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***

When a mysterious Green Knight appears at King Arthur's court on Christmas Eve and challenges someone to give blow for blow with an axe, Sir Gawain nobly agrees. After losing his head, the unearthly knight stands, retrieves it, and reminds Gawain that in a year's time, he, too, must take a blow. At the appointed time, noble Gawain goes in search of the knight to fulfill his obligations.

**Tolkien, J.R.R. – *The Lord of the Rings trilogy***

This story of epic proportions traces the wrathful and controlling influence of an evil ring that longs to return to the hand of its wicked lord, and the humble hobbit chosen to destroy it for the good of all of Middle-earth.

**Tolstoy, Leo – *Anna Karenina***

Considered by some the greatest novel ever written, *Anna Karenina* is Tolstoy's classic tale of love and adultery set against the backdrop of high society in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. A rich and complex masterpiece, the novel chronicles two parallel stories: It charts the disastrous course of a love affair between Anna, a beautiful married woman, and Count

Vronsky, a wealthy army officer. In contrast, it tells the story of the redemptive romantic love between Kitty and Levin. This comparison allows Tolstoy to probe the nature and purpose of romantic love. Tolstoy seamlessly weaves together the lives of dozens of characters, and in doing so captures a breathtaking tapestry of late-nineteenth-century Russian society. As Matthew Arnold wrote in his celebrated essay on Tolstoy, "We are not to take *Anna Karenina* as a work of art; we are to take it as a piece of life." Also by Tolstoy: *War and Peace*, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*

**Twain, Mark – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

Vagabond and uncivilized Huckleberry Finn fakes his own death to evade his greedy and abusive father. When he encounters Jim, a runaway slave, in his island hideout, the two team up to float down the Mississippi to freedom. In arguably the greatest American satire, Twain wraps a profound social commentary in an engaging tale full of the homespun humor that was his trademark. Also by Twain: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and others.

**Ullman, James Ramsey – *Banner in the Sky***

Rudi's father died in his attempts to mount the impregnable Citadel, the highest of the Swiss Alps. Propelled by something deep within him, Rudi must finish what his father began to plant his own banner in the sky.

**Verne, Jules – *Around the World in 80 Days***

An account of the extraordinary travels of Phileas Fogg and his valet Passepartout, who wager with Fogg's fellow club members to circumnavigate the globe within

80 days. Pursued by Fix, a private detective who believes Fogg to be a bank robber, the pair cross three continents and two oceans on trains, steamers, an elephant, and anything else they can lay their hands on. Will Phileas and Passepartout make it back to London within the 80 days? Also by Verne: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*.

**Vernon, Louise – *Ink on His Fingers***

Vernon chronicles the life of Johann Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press with movable type, through the eyes of a young apprentice. Also by Vernon: *The Bible Smuggler*, *The Beggar's Bible*, *A Heart Strangely Warmed*, *The Man Who*

*Laid the Egg*, and *Thunderstorm in the Church*.

**Virgil – *The Aeneid***

Some medieval Christians recognized this classic Latin epic to contain a prophetic announcement of the events of the birth of Christ. In fact, its author intended it to trumpet the glory and destiny of Rome. The story itself follows Aeneas, a Trojan who escaped the destruction of his homeland, as he voyages to Italy to found a new city for his displaced people. Shipwrecked in Carthage, he falls in love with the Princess Dido, but his divine mission calls. Full of loyalty, love, betrayal, and murder, this classic draws present readers as readily as it did its contemporaries.