

Summer Reading- AP Literature & Composition  
Harper Hunter: hunterhe@gm.sbac.edu

- 1) Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, and write a brief summary of each chapter. We will discuss this at the beginning of the school year. Copies were distributed at the end of the school year. If you didn't get one, copies are available in the front office.
- 2) Choose one novel that you haven't previously read from the list of Titles from Open Response Questions, and complete a dialectical journal and MaWDS chart for that book (examples provided at end of document). Please be prepared to discuss the book you chose with the class at the beginning of the school year.
- 3) Bring this list with you when you return to class in August- we will use this list again during the school year.

**Titles from Open Response Questions & Novels of Literary Merit:**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	1929	A love story of immense drama and uncompromising passion set in Italy in WWI.
Absalom, Absalom	William Faulkner	1936	A poor man who finds wealth and then marries into a respectable family, but ambition and extreme need for control bring about his ruin and the ruin of his family.
Adam Bede	George Eliot	1859	A timeless story of seduction and betrayal, it is also a deeper, impassioned meditation on the irrevocable consequences of human actions, moral growth and redemption through suffering.
The Adventures of Augie March	Saul Bellow	1953	As he makes his way to a full brimming consciousness of himself, Augie careens through numberless occupations and countless mentors and exemplars.
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	1884	A simple story of a boy's adventures in the Mississippi Valley, the symbolic significance of Huck's and Jim's voyage, and an incomparable adventure story.
The Aeneid	Virgil	17 BCE	Epic poem that tells the legendary story of Aeneas, a Trojan who travelled to Italy, where he became the ancestor of the Romans.
Agnes of God	John Pielmeier	1982	The story of a nun who gives birth and insists that the child was the result of a virgin conception. A psychiatrist and the mother superior of the convent clash during the resulting investigation.
The Age of Innocence	Edith Wharton	1920	Masterful portrait of desire and betrayal during the sumptuous Golden Age of Old New York, a time when society people "dreaded scandal more than disease."
Alias Grace	Margaret Atwood	1996	The notorious 1843 murders of Thomas Kinnear and his housekeeper Nancy Montgomery. Two servants of the Kinnear household were convicted of the crime.
All the King's Men	Robert Penn Warren	1946	A tale of power and corruption in the Depression-era South is a sustained meditation on the unforeseen consequences of every human act, the vexing connectedness of all people and the possibility of goodness in a sinful world.
All My Sons	Arthur Miller	1947	Joe Keller and Herbert Deever, partners in a machine shop during the war, turned out defective airplane parts, causing the deaths of many men.
All the Pretty Horses	Cormac McCarthy	1992	The tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself.
America is in the Heart	Carlos Bulosan	1946	The well known Filipino poet describes his boyhood in the Philippines, his voyage to America, and his years of hardship and despair as an itinerant laborer following the harvest trail in the rural West.
An American Tragedy	Theodore Dreiser	1925	The story of the corruption and destruction of one man, Clyde Griffiths, who forfeits his life in desperate pursuit of success.
American Pastoral	Philip Roth	1997	A legendary high school athlete, a devoted family man, a hard worker, the prosperous inheritor of his father's Newark glove factory comes of age in thriving, triumphant postwar America. And then one day, his luck deserts him.
The American	Henry James	1877	The adventures and misadventures of Christopher Newman, who encounters both the beauty and the ugliness of Europe, and learns not to take either for granted.

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Angels in America	Tony Kushner	1992	An examination of AIDS and homosexuality in America in the 1980s
Angle of Repose	Wallace Stegner	1971	Confined to a wheelchair, a retired historian sets out to write his grandparents' remarkable story, their days spent carving civilization into the surface of America's western frontier.
Anna Karenina	Leo Tolstoy	1877	The story of a woman who refuses to be fettered by social conventions, the wife of a government bureaucrat who falls in love with a rich army officer and leaves her husband and child for her lover.
Another Country	James Baldwin	1962	Set in Greenwich Village, Harlem and France, it tells the story of the suicide of a jazz-musician and the friends who search for an understanding of his life and death, discovering uncomfortable truths about themselves along the way.
Antigone	Sophocles	441 BCE	The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed.
Antony and Cleopatra	William Shakespeare	1606	This play follows the relationship between Cleopatra and Mark Antony from the time of the Sicilian revolt to Cleopatra's suicide during the Final War of the Roman Republic.
Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz	Mordecai Richler	1959	From his street days tormenting teachers at the Jewish academy to his time hustling four jobs at once in a grand plan to "be somebody," Duddy learns about living.
Armies of the Night	Norman Mailer	1968	Centers on the March on the Pentagon, the most famous anti-Vietnam War rally in Washington DC, and the characters that occupy this opposition.
As I Lay Dying	William Faulkner	1930	Harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother.
As You Like It	William Shakespeare	1599	Follows its heroine Rosalind as she flees persecution in her uncle's court, accompanied by her cousin Celia and Touchstone the court jester, to find safety and, eventually, love, in the Forest of Arden.
Atonement	Ian McEwan	2001	Novel of love and war, childhood and class, guilt and forgiveness.
Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man	James Weldon Johnson	1912	The novel describes a pilgrimage through America at the turn of the century, a fictional account of a young biracial man, living in post-Reconstruction era America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
The Awakening	Kate Chopin	1899	Daring portrayal of a woman trapped in a stifling marriage, who seeks and finds love outside the confines of her domestic situation.
"The Bear"	William Faulkner	1942	Narrative of the initiation and inheritance of Isaac McCaslin (born in 1867), the last direct male descendant of Lucius Quintus Carothers McCaslin, who purchased land from the Chickasaw Indians.
Beloved	Toni Morrison	1987	Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened.
The Bell Jar	Sylvia Plath	1963	A shocking, realistic, and intensely emotional novel about a woman falling into the grip of insanity.
A Bend in the River	V. S. Naipaul	1979	When Salim, a young Indian man, is offered a small business in Central Africa, he accepts. As he strives to establish himself, he becomes closely involved with the dangerous politics of the state.
Benito Cereno	Herman Melville	1855	The story of what happens when an American merchant ship comes upon a mysterious Spanish ship where the crew and their captain are starving and yet hostile to offers of help.
Billy Budd	Herman Melville	1924	A handsome young sailor is unjustly accused of plotting mutiny in this timeless tale of the sea.
The Birthday Party	Harold Pinter	1957	Stanley Webber is visited in his boarding house by strangers, Goldberg and McCann. An innocent-seeming birthday party for Stanley turns into a nightmare.
Black Boy	Richard Wright	1945	A classic American autobiography, an enduring story of one young man's coming of age during a particular time and place, and what it means to be a man, black, and Southern in America.
Bleak House	Charles Dickens	1853	At the novel's core is long-running litigation in England's Court of Chancery, Jarndyce v Jarndyce, which has far-reaching consequences for all involved. The litigation is emblematic of the failure of Chancery.
Bless Me, Ultima	Rudolfo Anaya	1972	Under Ultima's wise guidance, a young man will probe the family ties that bind him, and he will find in himself the magical secrets of the pagan past. At each turn in his life there is Ultima who will nurture the birth of his soul.
The Blind Assassin	Margaret Atwood	2000	Iris' terse account of her sister Laura's death in 1945, which is followed by an inquest report proclaiming the death accidental.
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison	1970	Set in Lorain, Ohio, it tells the story of a young African American girl, Pecola Breedlove, who prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be as beautiful and beloved as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America.
Bone: A Novel	Fae M. Ng	1993	A profoundly moving journey into San Francisco's Chinatown that is "brutal and poignant, dreamy and gritty, specific to its place and resonant in its implication about what it means to be an American."

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The Bonesetter's Daughter	Amy Tan	2001	In a remote mountain village where ghosts and tradition rule, LuLing grows up in the care of her mute Precious Auntie as the family endures a curse laid upon a relative known as the bonesetter.
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	1932	Aldous Huxley's vision of the future, of a world utterly transformed. Through the most efficient scientific and psychological engineering, people are genetically designed to be passive and therefore consistently useful to the ruling class.
Breath, Eyes, Memory	Edwidge Danticat	1994	At the age of twelve, Sophie is sent from her impoverished village to New York, to be reunited with a mother she barely remembers. There she discovers secrets and a legacy of shame that can be healed only when she returns to Haiti.
Brideshead Revisited	Evelyn Waugh	1945	This story looks back to the golden age before the Second World War. It tells the story of Charles Ryder's infatuation with the Marchmain family and the rapidly-disappearing world of privilege they inhabit.
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao	Junot Diaz	2007	The book chronicles the life of Oscar De León, a Dominican boy growing up in New Jersey, who is obsessed with science fiction, fantasy novels, falling in love, and the curse that has plagued his family for generations.
Brighton Rock	Graham Greene	1938	A gang war is raging through the dark underworld of Brighton. Pinkie has killed a man. Believing he can escape retribution, he is unprepared for the courageous Ida Arnold, who is determined to avenge a death.
Broken for You	Stephanie Kallos	2004	The story of two women in self-imposed exile whose lives are transformed when their paths intersect.
The Brothers Karamazov	Fyodor Dostoevski	1880	A passionate philosophical novel set in 19th century Russia that enters deeply into the ethical debates of God, free will, and morality.
Brown Girl, Brownstones	Paule Marshall	1959	This beloved coming-of-age story set in Brooklyn during the Depression and World War II follows the life of Selina Boyce, a daughter of immigrants from Barbados.
The Buddha of Suburbia	Hanif Kureishi	1990	Life gets more interesting for Karim Amir when his father becomes the Buddha of Suburbia, beguiling a circle of would-be mystics.
The Burgess Boys	Elizabeth Strout	2013	Haunted by the freak accident that killed their father when they were children, Jim and Bob Burgess escaped from their Maine hometown of Shirley Falls for New York City as soon as they possibly could.
Candida	George Bernard Shaw	1898	The central characters are a clergyman and his wife Candida, and a youthful poet who tries to win her affections. The play questions Victorian notions of love and marriage.
Candide	Voltaire	1759	In the household of a powerful Baron, Candide is an open-minded young man whose tutor has instilled in him the belief that all is for the best. But when his love for the Baron's daughter is discovered, he is cast out to make his own way.
The Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	1390	A collection of twenty-four tales that describe English society at the time. The characters, from the exalted Knight to the humble plowman, offer a variety of insights into customs and practices of medieval society.
The Caretaker	Harold Pinter	1960	Tragicomedy of the breakdown of communication, broadly in the tradition of the theatre of the absurd.
Catch-22	Joseph Heller	1961	The bombardier, Yossarian, is a hero endlessly inventive in his schemes to save himself from the horrible chances of war.
The Catcher in the Rye	J. D. Salinger	1951	A classic novel of teenage angst and rebellion, the hero-narrator Holden Caulfield leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	Tennessee Williams	1955	Gothic American story of brothers vying for their dying father's inheritance.
Cat's Eye	Margaret Atwood	1988	A breathtaking novel of a woman grappling with the tangled knots of her life.
The Centaur	John Updike	1963	A modern retelling of the legend of Chiron, the noblest and wisest of the centaurs, who, painfully wounded yet unable to die, gave up his immortality on behalf of Prometheus.
Ceremony	Leslie Marmon Silko	1977	Tayo, a young Native American, has been a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II, and the horrors of captivity have almost eroded his will to survive.
The Cherry Orchard	Anton Chekhov	1904	The Gayev family is torn by powerful forces rooted deep in history and the society around them. Their estate is hopelessly in debt and they are urged to cut down their beautiful cherry orchard to sell the land for holiday cottages.
The Cider House Rules	John Irving	1985	Raised from birth in an orphanage, Homer has become the protege of Dr. Wilbur Larch, who cares for the troubled mothers who seek his help, either by delivering and taking in their unwanted babies or by performing illegal abortions.
The Chosen	Chaim Potok	1967	Tale of two boys, their fathers, their friendship, and the chaotic times in which they live.
"Civil Disobedience"	Henry David Thoreau	1849	Classic essay to advocate public resistance to the laws and acts of government that he considered unjust.
Cold Mountain	Charles Frazier	1997	A novel about a soldier's perilous journey back to his beloved near the Civil War's end.
The Color Purple	Alice Walker	1982	The story focuses on the life of African American women in the southern United States in the 1930s, addressing numerous issues including their exceedingly low position in American social culture.
Coming Through Slaughter	Michael Ondaatje	1976	A haunting, lushly atmospheric novel about one of jazz's legendary pioneers and martyrs.

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Copenhagen	Michael Frayn	1998	Based around an event that occurred in Copenhagen in 1941, a meeting between the physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg.
The Corrections	Jonathan Franzen	2001	This story brings an old-time America of freight trains and civic duty into wild collision with the era of home surveillance, hands-off parenting, do-it-yourself mental health care, and New Economy millionaires.
The Country of the Pointed Firs	Sarah Orne Jewett	1896	A series of small, beautifully rendered sketches as a sustained narrative, perfectly evoking the inexorable decline of coastal New England after the Civil War.
Cry, The Beloved Country	Alan Paton	1948	The most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty.
Crime and Punishment	Fyodor Dostoevski	1866	The story of the brilliant but conflicted young Raskolnikov and the murder he commits, explores the theme of redemption through suffering.
"The Crisis"	Thomas Paine	1777	A collection of articles written during the American Revolutionary War, arguing for independence from England.
The Crossing	Cormac McCarthy	1994	A coming-of-age novel set on the border between the southwest United States and Mexico. before and during the Second World War that tells of three journeys taken from New Mexico to Mexico.
Daisy Miller	Henry James	1878	When she strikes up an intimate friendship with a young Italian, her flat refusal to observe the codes of respectable behavior leaves her perilously exposed.
Dancing at Lughnasa	Brian Friel	1990	It is 1936 and harvest time in County Donegal. The story evokes the interior landscape of a group of human beings trapped in their domestic situation, and the wider landscape of which they are a part.
David Copperfield	Charles Dickens	1849	The story of a young man's adventures on his journey from an unhappy and impoverished childhood to the discovery of his vocation as a successful novelist.
"The Dead"	James Joyce	1914	The story focuses on Gabriel Conroy, a teacher and part-time book reviewer, and explores the relationships he has with his family and friends.
The Death of Ivan Ilyich	Leo Tolstoy	1886	A high court judge has never given the inevitability of his dying so much as a passing thought, but one day death announces itself to him, and to his shocked surprise, he is brought face to face with his own mortality.
Delta Wedding	Eudora Welty	1946	The story, set in 1923, is a vivid and charming portrait of a large southern family, the Fairchilds, who live on a plantation in the Mississippi delta.
Desire under the Elms	Eugene O'Neill	1924	The tale of Ephraim Cabot, greedy and hard like the stone walls that surround his farm. When he brings home his new young bride, Abbie, his grown sons disapprove. One leaves, but the other stays to fight for the family fortune.
Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant	Anne Tyler	1982	It was a Sunday night in 1944 when her husband left the little row house on Baltimore's Calvert Street, abandoning Pearl to raise their three children alone.
The Divine Comedy	Dante Alighieri	1320	On the surface, the poem describes Dante's travels through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise or Heaven, but at a deeper level, it represents, allegorically, the soul's journey towards God.
The Diviners	Margaret Laurence	1974	Morag Gunn, a middle aged writer who lives in a farmhouse on the Canadian prairie, struggles to understand the loneliness of her eighteen-year-old daughter.
Doctor Faustus	Christopher Marlowe	1589	Faustus, a brilliant scholar, sells his soul to the devil in exchange for limitless knowledge and powerful black magic, yet remains unfulfilled. He considers repenting, but remains too proud to ask God for forgiveness.
Doctor Zhivago	Boris Pasternak	1957	Epic tale about the effects of the Russian Revolution and its aftermath on a bourgeois family.
A Doll's House	Henrik Ibsen	1879	Portrays the tragic hypocrisy of Victorian middle class marriage.
The Dollmaker	Harriet Arnot	1954	Strong-willed, self-reliant Gertie Nevels' peaceful life in the Kentucky hills is devastated by the brutal winds of change. Uprooted from her home, she and her family are thrust into the confusion and chaos of wartime Detroit.
Don Quixote	Miguel de Cervantes	1605	Don Quixote has become so entranced by reading chivalric romances, that he determines to become a knight-errant himself. In the company of his faithful squire, Sancho Panza, he exploits blossom in all sorts of wonderful ways.
Dreaming in Cuban	Cristina Garcia	1992	This is the bittersweet story of a family divided by politics and geography by the Cuban revolution. It is the family story of Celia del Pino, and her husband, daughter and grandchildren, from the mid-1930s to 1980.
Dutchman	Amiri Baraka/Leroi Jones	1964	This story focuses on Lula, a white woman, and Clay, an African American man, who both ride the subway in New York City. It is symbolic of integrationist and assimilationist ideologies within the contemporary Civil Rights Movement.
East of Eden	John Steinbeck	1952	Set in the rich farmland of California's Salinas Valley, the novel follows the intertwined destinies of two families whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel.

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Emma	Jane Austen	1815	Beautiful, clever, rich, and single Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others.
An Enemy of the People	Henrik Ibsen	1882	This play attacks the institution of the liberal newspaper and deals with the extent to which individual desires and beliefs are compromised by society, and the ways in which an individual can be ostracized by the society he is trying to help.
Equus	Peter Shaffer	1973	The story of a deranged youth who blinds six horses with a spike. The story creates a portrait of how materialism and convenience have killed our capacity for worship, passion, and capacity for pain.
Ethan Frome	Edith Wharton	1911	Ethan Frome works his unproductive farm and struggles to maintain a bearable existence with his difficult, suspicious, and hypochondriac wife. But when her vivacious cousin enters their household, Ethan finds himself obsessed with her.
The Eumenides	Aeschylus (in The Oresteia)	450	Trilogy of Greek tragedies concerning the murder of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra, the murder of Clytemnestra by Orestes, the trial of Orestes, the end of the curse on the House of Atreus and pacification of the Erinyes.
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Jonathan Safran Foer	2005	When his father is killed in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, Oskar sets out to solve the mystery of a key he discovers in his father's closet.
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	1953	The novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found.
The Fall	Albert Camus	1956	A series of dramatic monologues by the self-proclaimed "judge-penitent," as he reflects upon his life to a stranger. He tells of his success as a wealthy Parisian defense lawyer, his crisis, and his ultimate "fall" from grace.
A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	1929	Set during the Italian campaign of World War I, it is a first-person account of American Frederic Henry, serving as a Lieutenant in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army.
The Father	August Strindberg	1887	A highly emotional study of marital upheaval and struggle between man and woman.
Fathers and Sons	Ivan Turgenev	1862	Bazarov's outspoken rejection of authority and social conventions starts quarrels, misunderstandings, and romantic entanglements that will transform the household and reflect the changes taking place all across 19th century Russia.
Faust	Johann Goethe	1832	Reworks the late medieval myth of a brilliant scholar so disillusioned he resolves to make a contract with Mephistopheles.
The Federalist	Alexander Hamilton	1787	The Federalist Papers explain the complexities of a constitutional government its political structure & its principles based on the inherent rights of humans.
Fences	August Wilson	1986	Explores the evolving African American experience, race relations, and the ways in which the 1950s yielded to the new spirit of liberation in the 1960s.
A Fine Balance	Rohinton Mistry	1995	As the characters move from distrust to friendship and from friendship to love, <i>A Fine Balance</i> creates an enduring panorama of the human spirit in an inhuman state.
Fifth Business	Robertson Davies	1970	Ramsay is a man twice born, a man who has returned from the hell of the battle-grave at Passchendaele in World War I decorated with the Victoria Cross and destined to be caught in a no man's land where memory, history, & myth collide.
The Fixer	Bernard Malamud	1966	Set in Kiev in 1911 during a period of heightened anti-Semitism, the novel tells the story of Yakov Bok, a Jewish handyman blamed for the brutal murder of a young Russian boy.
For Whom the Bell Tolls	Ernest Hemingway	1940	The story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain, it tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	1818	A Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, tells the story of a committed science student obsessed with discovering the cause of generation and life, and bestowing animation on lifeless matter.
A Free Life: A Novel	Ha Jin	2007	Follows the Wu family as they sever their ties with China in the aftermath of the 1989 massacre at Tiananmen Square and begin a new life in the United States.
A Gathering of Old Men	Ernest Gaines	1983	A powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of an African American man.
Germinal	Emile Zola	1885	Expresses outrage at the exploitation of the many by the few, but also shows humanity's capacity for compassion and hope.
A Gesture Life	Chang-Rae Lee	1999	Suspenseful story about love, family, and community, and the secrets we all harbor. It is the story of a proper man, an upstanding citizen who comes to epitomize the decorous values of his New York suburban town.
Ghosts	Henrik Ibsen	1881	The story of Helen Alving, a widow who is haunted by the many mistresses of her deceased husband and by her son who has inherited syphilis from his philandering father.
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	1945	The story of a mother, her son and daughter, and her daughter's suitor that brings to life human beings who cling to a dream world that can so easily be shattered into jagged pieces.

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The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	1997	The year is 1969. In the state of Kerala, on the southernmost tip of India, fraternal twins Esthappen and Rahel fashion a childhood for themselves in the shade of the wreck that is their family.
Going After Cacciato	Tim O'Brien	1978	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 journey from the jungles of Indochina to the streets of Paris.
The Golden Bowl	Henry James	1904	This complex, intense study of marriage and adultery explores the tangle of interrelationships between a father and daughter and their respective spouses.
The Good Soldier	Ford Madox Ford	1915	Relates the complex social and sexual relationships between two couples, one English, one American, and the growing awareness by the American narrator John Dowell of the intrigues and passions behind their orderly Edwardian facade.
The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck	1939	This epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	1860	Humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations."
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	1925	The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby, his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, and of lavish parties on Long Island. It is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.
Go Tell It on the Mountain	James Baldwin	1953	Semi-autobiographical novel that chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935.
Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift	1726	Shipwrecked and cast adrift, Lemuel Gulliver wakes to find himself on Lilliput, an island inhabited by little people, whose height makes their quarrels over fashion and fame seem ridiculous.
The Hairy Ape	Eugene O'Neill	1922	The story of a brutish, unthinking laborer known as Yank, the antagonist of the play, as he searches for a sense of belonging in a world controlled by the rich.
Hamlet	William Shakespeare	1600	Confronted with evidence that his uncle murdered his father, and with his mother's infidelity, Hamlet must find a means of reconciling his longing for oblivion with his duty as avenger.
Hard Times	Charles Dickens	1854	This book appraises English society and highlights the social and economic pressures of the era.
Heart of Darkness	Joseph Conrad	1899	Marlow's journey up the Congo River and his meeting with, and fascination by, Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious personage who dominates the unruly inhabitants of the region.
The Heart of the Matter	Graham Greene	1948	Scobie is a highly principled officer in a war-torn West African state. When he is passed over for promotion he is forced to borrow money to send his despairing wife away on a holiday.
Hedda Gabler	Henrik Ibsen	1890	Hedda Gabler marries dull George Tesman and foresees a life of middle class tedium stretching ahead when they return from their honeymoon. Increasingly, she is drawn into the clutches of her admirer, Judge Brack
The Help	Kathryn Stockett	2009	Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger.
Henry IV, Parts I and II	William Shakespeare	1597	Henry IV has two main plots that intersect in a dramatic battle at the end of the play: King Henry IV, his son, and their strained relationship; a rebellion being plotted against King Henry by a discontented family of noblemen.
Henry V	William Shakespeare	1600	Tells the story of King Henry V of England, focusing on events immediately before and after the Battle of Agincourt during the Hundred Years' War.
A High Wind in Jamaica	Richard Hughes	1928	The Bas-Thornton children are raised on a plantation in Jamaica after the emancipation of slaves in England. A hurricane destroys their home, and their parents decide they must leave the island to return to their original home in England.
The Homecoming	Harold Pinter	1957	Set in North London, the play concerns Teddy's and Ruth's "homecoming," which has distinctly different symbolic and thematic implications.
Home to Harlem	Claude McKay	1928	This story traces the parallel paths of two very different young men struggling to find their way through the suspicion and prejudice of American society, and the central themes of the Harlem Renaissance.
A House for Mr. Biswas	V. S. Naipul	1961	Mohun Biswas has spent his 46 years of life striving for independence. Shuttled from one residence to another after the drowning of his father, he yearns for a place he can call home.
House Made of Dawn	N. Scott Momaday	1967	He was a young American Indian named Abel, and he lived in two worlds. One was that of his father, the other was the world of the twentieth century.
The House of Mirth	Edith Wharton	1905	Portrays the moral, social and economic restraints on a woman who dared to claim the privileges of marriage without assuming the responsibilities.

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The House of Seven Gables	Nathaniel Hawthorne	1851	In a sleepy little New England village stands a dark, weather-beaten, many-gabled house, haunted by a centuries-old curse that casts the shadow of ancestral sin upon the last four members of the distinctive Pyncheon family of Salem.
The House of the Spirits	Isabel Allende	1982	A luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies.
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	1984	The story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become.
The Iliad	Homer	800 BCE	Achilles, Helen, Hector, and other heroes of Greek myth and history in the tenth and final year of the Greek siege of Troy.
The Importance of Being Earnest	Oscar Wilde	1899	Madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers entanglements. Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax are both in love with the same mythical suitor.
In the Time of the Butterflies	Julia Alvarez	1994	Set during the waning days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960, this novel tells the story of the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands.
The Inheritance of Loss	Kiran Desai	2006	In a crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga lives an embittered old judge who wants to retire in peace when his orphaned granddaughter Sai arrives on his doorstep.
In the Lake of the Woods	Tim O'Brien	1994	When long-hidden secrets about the atrocities he committed in Vietnam come to light, a candidate for the U.S. Senate retreats with his wife to a lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota.
Invisible Man	Ralph Ellison	1952	Nightmare journey across the racial divide that tells unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators.
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	1847	Orphaned into the household of her Aunt Reed at Gateshead and subject to the cruel regime at Lowood charity school, Jane Eyre nonetheless emerges unbroken in spirit and integrity.
Jasmine	Bharati Mukherjee	1989	When Jasmine is suddenly widowed at seventeen, she seems fated to a life of quiet isolation in the small Indian village where she was born, but the force of her desires propels her into a larger, dangerous, more life-giving world.
J.B.	Archibald MacLeish	1958	The story of a 20th-century American millionaire banker whom God commands be stripped of his family & wealth, but who refuses to turn his back on God.
Joe Turner's Come and Gone	August Wilson	1988	When Herald Loomis arrives at a Pittsburgh boardinghouse after seven years' impressed labor on Joe Turner's chain gang, he is a free man-in body. But the scars of his enslavement oppress his spirit still.
The Joy Luck Club	Amy Tan	1989	In 1949, four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club.
Joseph Andrews	Henry Fielding	1742	Joseph Andrews refuses his employer's advances, she discharges him, and Joseph and his old tutor set off to visit his sweetheart. Along the way, they meet with a series of adventures that expose the hypocrisy and affectation of others.
Jude the Obscure	Thomas Hardy	1895	Jude Fawley, is a working-class young man, a stonemason, who dreams of becoming a scholar. The novel is concerned in particular with issues of class, education, religion and marriage.
Julius Caesar	William Shakespeare	1599	Based on true events from Roman history, the play focuses on Brutus' struggle between the conflicting demands of honor patriotism, and friendship.
The Jungle	Upton Sinclair	1906	The story of the brutal conditions in the Chicago stockyards at the turn of the nineteenth century and the appalling odds against which immigrants and other working people struggled for their share of the American dream.
Kafka on the Shore	Haruki Murakami	2002	A teenage boy, Kafka Tamura, runs away from home either to escape a gruesome prophecy or to search for his long-missing mother and sister; and an aging simpleton is drawn toward Kafka.
King Lear	William Shakespeare	1603	King Lear decides to divide his realm amongst his three daughters, leaving the largest share to the one who loves him the most. Lear repents his rashness too late, and must face the tragic consequences of his choices.
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	2003	Amir is a member of the ruling caste of Pashtuns. Hassan, his servant and constant companion, is a Hazara, a despised and impoverished caste. Their uncommon bond is torn by Amir's choice to abandon his friend.
Lady Windermere's Fan	Oscar Wilde	1893	The story concerns Lady Windermere, who suspects that her husband is having an affair with another woman. She confronts him with it but although he denies it, he invites the other woman to his wife's birthday ball.
Last Man in the Tower	Aravind Adiga	2011	Tower A is a relic from the 1950s. When a property developer offers to buy out the residents for eye-watering sums, the principled teacher is the only one to refuse, determined not to surrender his sentimental attachment to his home.
The Last of the Mohicans	James Fenimore Cooper	1826	Deep in the forests of upper New York State, the brave woodsman Hawkeye (Natty Bumppo) and his loyal Mohican friends Chingachgook and Uncas become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War.
A Lesson before Dying	Ernest Gaines	1993	Set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

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Let the Great World Spin	Colum McCann	2009	The people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, as a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, a quarter mile above the ground.
Letters from an American Farmer	St. John de Crèvecoeur	1782	These Letters celebrate personal determination, freedom from institutional oppression, and the largeness and fertility of the land. They also address darker and more symbolic elements, particularly slavery.
Linden Hills	Gloria Naylor	1985	This bold, haunting novel follows two young men as they attempt to find work amid the circles of the well-off community. The true cost of success for the lost souls of Linden Hills: an existence trapped in a nightmare of their own making.
Light in August	William Faulkner	1932	Contrasts stark tragedy with hopeful perseverance in the face of mortality: Lena, in search of the father of her unborn child; Reverend Hightower, haunted by visions of Confederate glory; and Joe, a desperate, enigmatic drifter.
The Little Foxes	Lillian Hellman	1939	Picture a charming home in the South. Into this peaceful scene put the prosperous, despotic Hubbard family, each trying to outwit the other.
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	1868	Following the lives of four sisters on a journey out of adolescence, Louisa May Alcott's Little Women explores the difficulties associated with gender roles in a Post-Civil War America.
Long Day's Journey into Night	Eugene O'Neill	1941	A play about addiction and the resulting dysfunction of the family: they constantly conceal, blame, resent, regret, accuse and deny in an escalating cycle of conflict with occasional attempts at affection, encouragement and consolation.
Look Homeward, Angel	Thomas Wolfe	1929	A young man's burning desire to leave his small town and tumultuous family in search of a better life, in 1929.
Lord Jim	Joseph Conrad	1900	Haunted by the memory of a moment of lost nerve during a disastrous voyage, Jim submits to condemnation by a Court of Inquiry. He travels to Patusan, and as the agent at this remote trading post comes to be revered as 'Tuan Jim.'
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	1954	When a plane crashes on a remote island, a small group of schoolboys are the sole survivors. Each of the boys attempts to establish control as the reality, and brutal savagery, of their situation sets in.
The Loved One	Evelyn Waugh	1948	Following the death of a friend, British poet and pets' mortician Dennis finds himself entering the artificial Hollywood paradise. Within its golden gates, death is wrapped up and sold like a package holiday.
Love Medicine	Louise Erdrich	1984	The story of two families, this is a multigenerational portrait of strong men and women caught in an unforgettable drama of anger, desire, and the healing power of love.
"Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"	T. S. Eliot	1915	A dramatic interior monologue of an urban man, stricken with feelings of isolation and an incapability for decisive action that is said "to epitomize frustration" and "represent thwarted desires and modern disillusionment."
Lysistrata	Aristophanes	411BCE	A comic account of a woman's extraordinary mission to end the Peloponnesian War.
Madame Bovary	Gustave Flaubert	1856	When Emma married Charles, she imagined she would pass into the life of luxury and passion that she reads about. But Charles is a dull country doctor, and provincial life is very different from the romantic excitement for which she yearns.
Maggie: A Girl of the Streets	Stephen Crane	1892	In her short life, Maggie was driven to prostitution, and died by her own hand while still a teenager.
Main Street	Sinclair Lewis	1920	An idealistic young woman's attempts to reform her small town.
Major Barbara	George Bernard Shaw	1905	A Salvation Army officer learns that her father, a wealthy armaments manufacturer, has donated a lot of money to her organization. She resigns in disgust but eventually sees that through wealth & power, people can help each other.
Man and Superman	George Bernard Shaw	1903	A play that encapsulates the new century's intellectual inheritance, and explores the role of the artist, the function of women in society, and the theory of Creative Evolution.
Mansfield Park	Jane Austen	1814	Taken from the poverty of her parents' home, Fanny Price is brought up with her rich cousins at Mansfield Park, acutely aware of her humble rank and with only her cousin Edmund as an ally.
Master Harold...and the Boys	Athol Fugard	1982	The play takes place in South Africa during apartheid era, and depicts how institutionalized racism, bigotry or hatred can become absorbed by those who live under it.
The Mayor of Casterbridge	Thomas Hardy	1886	In a fit of drunken anger, Michael Henchard sells his wife and baby daughter at a country fair. He manages to establish himself as a respected pillar of the community, but there always lurks the secret of his past.
M. Butterfly	David Henry Wang	1986	Based on a true story that stunned the world, <i>M. Butterfly</i> opens in the cramped prison cell where diplomat Rene Gallimard is being held captive by the French government.
Medea	Euripides	431BCE	The myth of Jason, leader of the Argonauts, who has won the dragon-guarded treasure of the Golden Fleece with the help of the sorceress Medea. Having married Medea and fathered her two children, Jason abandons her.
The Member of the Wedding	Carson McCullers	1946	The story of twelve-year-old Frankie, who is hopelessly bored with life until she hears about her older brother's wedding. She takes on an overly active role in the wedding in her desire to be the member of something larger than herself.
The Memory Keeper's Daughter	Kim Edwards	2005	On a winter night in 1964, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. Yet when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's Syndrome.



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The Merchant of Venice	William Shakespeare	1596	A merchant in Venice must default on a large loan provided by a moneylender.
The Metamorphosis	Franz Kafka	1912	As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.
Middle Passage	V. S. Naipaul	1962	This classic of modern travel writing is a portrait of Trinidad and four adjacent Caribbean societies, countries haunted by the legacies of slavery and colonialism.
Middlemarch	George Eliot	1871	A work of realism that refers to many historical events, incorporates contemporary medical science and examines the deeply reactionary mindset found within a settled community facing the prospect of unwelcome change.
Middlesex	Jeffrey Eugenides	2002	The story of Calliope and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family, who travel from a tiny village overlooking Mount Olympus to Detroit, witnessing its glory days as the Motor City and the race riots of 1967.
A Midsummer Night's Dream	William Shakespeare	1595	The adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors who are controlled by the fairies who inhabit the forest in which most of the play is set.
The Mill on the Floss	George Eliot	1860	Brought up at Dorlcote Mill, Maggie Tulliver worships her brother Tom and is desperate to win the approval of her parents, but her passionate, wayward nature and her fierce intelligence bring her into constant conflict with her family.
The Misanthrope	Moliere	1666	Spotlights the absurdities of social and literary pretension, focusing on a man who is quick to criticize the faults of others, yet remains blind to his own. Satirizes the hypocrisies of French aristocratic society.
Miss Lonelyhearts	Nathanael West	1939	Miss Lonelyhearts was a newspaper reporter, so named because he had been assigned to write the agony column, to answer the letters. A joke at first; but then he was caught up in a vision of suffering, and he sought a way out.
Moby Dick	Herman Melville	1851	As Ishmael is drawn into Captain Ahab's obsessive quest to slay the whale Moby Dick, he finds himself engaged in a metaphysical struggle between good and evil.
Moll Flanders	Daniel Defoe	1721	The account of the life of Moll, detailing her exploits from birth until old age.
Monkey Bridge	Lan Cao	1997	The narrative traverses between worlds past and present, in telling two interlocking stories: the Vietnamese version of the classic immigrant experience in America, and a dark tale of betrayal, political intrigue, family secrets, and revenge.
The Moor's Last Sigh	Salman Rushdie	1995	Moraes 'Moor' Zogoiby is the last surviving scion of a dynasty of spice merchants and crime lords. As he travels a route that takes him from India to Spain, he leaves behind a tale of mad passions and volcanic family hatreds.
Mother Courage and Her Children	Bertold Brecht	1941	Set in the seventeenth century, the play follows Anna Fierling, an itinerant trader, as she pulls her wagon of wares and her children through the blood and carnage of Europe's religious wars.
Mrs. Dalloway	Virginia Woolf	1925	Details a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway, a fictional high-society woman in post-World War I England, and addresses Clarissa's preparations for a party she will host that evening.
Mrs. Warren's Profession	George Bernard Shaw	1898	Middle-aged Mrs. Warren is a madam, proprietress of a string of successful brothels. Her daughter, Vivie, is a modern young woman, but not so modern that she's not shocked to discover the source of her mother's wealth.
Much Ado About Nothing	William Shakespeare	1598	Benedick and Beatrice are tricked into confessing their love for each other, and Claudio is tricked into rejecting Hero at the altar on the erroneous belief that she has been unfaithful.
Murder in the Cathedral	T. S. Eliot	1930	Based on the murder of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170.
"My Last Duchess"	Robert Browning	1969	The Duke of Ferrara demonstrates many sociopathic tendencies as he recalls the time he shared with his now-deceased Duchess. Even in death the Duke wished to hide her away behind the curtain where no man could admire her beauty.
My Ántonia	Willa Cather	1918	The novel tells the stories of an orphaned boy from Virginia, Jim, and the elder daughter in a family of Bohemian immigrants, Ántonia, who are brought as children to be pioneers in Nebraska towards the end of the 19th century.
My Name is Asher Lev	Chaim Potok	1972	Asher is a Ladover Hasid who keeps kosher, prays three times a day and believes in the Master of the Universe; but is also an artist who is compulsively driven to render the world he sees and feels even when it leads him to blasphemy.
The Namesake	Jhumpa Lahiri	2003	The immigrant experience, the clash of cultures, the conflicts of assimilation, and, most poignantly, the tangled ties between generations.
Native Son	Richard Wright	1940	The novel tells the story of a 20-year-old African American youth living in utter poverty in a poor area on Chicago's South Side in the 1930s.
Native Speaker	Chang-Rae Lee	1995	Park has spent his entire life trying to become a true American, a native speaker. But even as the essence of his adopted country continues to elude him, his Korean heritage seems to drift further and further away.
Never Let Me Go	Kazuo Ishiguro	2005	Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at an exclusive boarding school secluded in the English countryside. It was a place of mercurial cliques and mysterious rules.
Night	Elie Weisel	1958	Autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps.

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No Exit	John Paul Sartre	1944	The play is a depiction of the afterlife in which three deceased characters are punished by being locked into a room together for eternity.
Noah's Compass	Anne Tyler	2009	A wise, gently humorous, and deeply compassionate novel about a schoolteacher, who has been forced to retire at sixty-one, coming to terms with the final phase of his life.
No-No Boy	John Okada	1957	The perspective of a Japanese-American man who would neither denounce his Japanese heritage nor fight for the U.S. Army during WWII.
Notes from the Underground	Fyodor Dostoevski	1864	The unnamed narrator is a former official who has defiantly withdrawn into an underground existence, and scrawls a passionate narrative that serves as a devastating attack on social utopianism & an assertion of man's irrational nature.
Obasan	Joy Kogawa	1981	The story of the evacuation, relocation, and dispersal of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry during the WWII.
The Octopus	Frank Norris	1901	Based on an actual, bloody dispute between wheat farmers and the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1880, <i>The Octopus</i> is a stunning novel of the waning days of the frontier West.
The Odyssey	Homer	800BCE	Odysseus' wanderings after the Trojan War, and his return after twenty years to a home besieged by his wife Penelope's suitors.
Oedipus Rex	Sophocles	430BCE	A story of a king who, acting entirely in ignorance, kills his father and marries his mother.
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	1937	The story of two outsiders striving to find their place in an unforgiving world, who have nothing in the world except each other and a dream, a dream that one day they will have some land of their own.
Old School	Tobia Wolff	2003	When it is announced that Hemingway is coming to a prestigious school, a literary competition intensifies among the students, and honour, loyalty, and friendship are crumbling under the strain.
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	1838	The story of the orphan Oliver, who runs away from the workhouse only to be taken in by a den of thieves.
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich	Alexander Solzhenitsyn	1962	The story of labor-camp inmate Ivan Denisovich Shukhov, describing his struggle to maintain his dignity in the face of communist oppression.
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Ken Kesey	1962	Randle Patrick McMurphy is a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over.
One Hundred Years of Solitude	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	1967	The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the family. It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind.
O Pioneers!	Willa Cather	1913	When Alexandra Bergson, the daughter of Swedish immigrants, takes over the family farm after her father's death, she falls under the spell of the rich, forbidding Nebraska prairie.
The Optimist's Daughter	Eudora Welty	1972	This story of a young woman's confrontation with death and her past.
The Oresteia	Aeschylus	458BCE	The murder of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra, the murder of Clytemnestra by Orestes, the trial of Orestes, the end of the curse on the House of Atreus and pacification of the Erinyes.
Orlando: A Biography	Virginia Woolf	1928	A high-spirited story inspired by the tumultuous family history of Woolf's lover and close friend, the aristocratic poet and novelist Vita Sackville-West.
Oryx and Crake	Margaret Atwood	2003	An unforgettable love story and compelling vision of the future. Snowman is struggling to survive in a world where he may be the last human, and mourning the loss of his best friend, Crake, and the beautiful and elusive Oryx.
Othello	William Shakespeare	1603	A powerful drama of a marriage that begins with fascination between Othello and Desdemona, with elopement, and with intense mutual devotion and that ends with jealous rage and violent deaths.
The Other	Thomas Tryon	1971	The life of a Connecticut country town in the thirties, and in the fearful mysteries that slowly darken and overwhelm it.
Our Mutual Friend	Charles Dickens	1865	A satiric masterpiece about the allure and peril of money, <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> revolves around the inheritance of a dust-heap where the rich throw their trash.
Our Town	Thornton Wilder	1938	A play about life in the small village of Grover's Corners, an allegorical representation of all life.
Out of Africa	Isak Dinesen	1937	Memoir of her years in Africa on a four-thousand-acre coffee plantation in the hills near Nairobi. She went to Kenya from Denmark with her husband, and when they separated she stayed on to manage the farm by herself.
Pale Fire	Vladimir Nabokov	1962	The interaction between Kinbote and Shade takes place in the fictitious small college town of New Wye, Appalachia, where they live across a lane from each other, from February to July 1959.
Pamela	Samuel Richardson	1740	This story describes a young servant's long resistance to the attempts of her predatory master to seduce her.
A Passage to India	E. M. Forster	1924	When Adela and her companion arrive in the Indian town of Chandrapore, they quickly feel trapped by its prejudiced community and are determined to escape and explore India.

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Paradise Lost	John Milton	1667	The poem is about the Biblical story of the fall of man: the temptation of Adam and Eve by the fallen angel Satan and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden.
Passing	Nella Larsen	1929	Set primarily in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City in the 1920s, the story centers on the reunion of two childhood friends, Clare Kendry and Irene Redfield, and their increasing fascination with each other's lives.
Peer Gynt	Henrik Ibsen	1867	The play relates the roguish life of the world-wandering Peer, who finds wealth and fame, but never happiness, although he is redeemed by love in the end.
Père Goriot	Honore de Balzac	1834	The tragic story of a father whose obsessive love for his two daughters leads to his financial and personal ruin.
Persuasion	Jane Austen	1817	Twenty-seven-year old Anne Elliot is happily betrothed to a naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, but she precipitously breaks off the engagement when persuaded by her friend Lady Russell that such a match is unworthy.
Phaedre	Jean Racine	1676	The play is set at the royal court in Troezen, on the Peloponnesus coast in Southern Greece. In the absence of her royal husband Thésée, Phèdre declares her love to Hippolyte, Thésée's son from a previous marriage.
The Piano Lesson	August Wilson	1990	At the heart of the play stands the ornately carved upright piano which, as the Charles family's prized, hard-won possession, Berniece refuses to sell, clinging to the piano as a reminder of the history that is their family legacy.
The Plague	Albert Camus	1947	In Oran, a coastal town in North Africa, the plague begins as a series of portents, unheeded by the people. It gradually obliterates all traces of the past and drives its victims to extremes of suffering, madness, and compassion.
Pnin	Vladimir Nabokov	1953	Professor Timofey Pnin is a haplessly disoriented Russian émigré precariously employed on an American college campus in the 1950s. Pnin struggles to maintain his dignity through a series of misunderstandings.
Pocho	Jose Antonio Villarreal	1970	Set in Depression-era California, the novel focuses on Richard, who experiences the intense conflict between loyalty to the traditions of his family's past and attraction to new ideas.
The Poisonwood Bible	Barbara Kingsolver	1998	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. Everything is calamitously transformed on African soil.
Portrait of a Lady	Henry James	1881	When Isabel Archer, a beautiful, spirited American is brought to Europe by her wealthy Aunt Touchett, it is expected that she will soon marry. But Isabel, resolved to determine her own fate, does not hesitate to turn down two eligible suitors.
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man the	James Joyce	1916	This story traces the religious and intellectual awakening of young Stephen Dedalus, who questions and rebels against Catholic and Irish conventions under which he has grown, culminating in his self-exile from Ireland to Europe.
The Power and the Glory	Graham Greene	1940	In a poor, remote section of Southern Mexico, the paramilitary group, the Red Shirts have taken control. God has been outlawed, and the priests have been systematically hunted down and killed.
Praisesong for the Widow	Paule Marshall	1983	Throwing into suitcases all she brought with her on this Caribbean cruise, Avey knows she has to go home. She wonders why she has been dreaming of her childhood, of the months of August spent on a small island with her great-aunt.
A Prayer for Owen Meany and	John Irving	1989	Eleven-year-old Owen Meany, playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire, hits a foul ball kills his best friend's mother.
Prep	Curtis Sittenfeld	2005	Lee Fiora is an intelligent, observant fourteen-year-old when her father drops her off in front of her dorm at the prestigious Ault School in Massachusetts.
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	1813	The story charts the emotional development of Elizabeth Bennet, who learns the error of making hasty judgements and comes to appreciate the difference between the superficial and the essential.
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	Muriel Spark	1961	At the Marcia Blaine School for Girls, in Edinburgh, Scotland, teacher extraordinaire Miss Jean Brodie is unmistakably, and outspokenly, in her prime. She is passionate in the application of her unorthodox teaching methods.
Purple Hibiscus	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	2003	Kambili's wealthy Catholic father, under whose shadow Kambili lives, while generous and politically active in the community, is repressive and fanatically religious at home.
Push	Sapphire	1996	When Precious, pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and highly radical teacher, she learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it her own for the first time.
Pygmalion	George Bernard Shaw	1912	While Higgins teaches Eliza to speak and act like a duchess, she also asserts her independence, adamantly refusing to be his creation.
Ragtime	E. L. Doctorow	1974	Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War.
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	1959	Drama about the hopes and aspirations of a struggling, working-class family living on the south side of Chicago.
The Rape of the Lock	Alexander Pope	1717	Petre, lusting after Arabella, had cut off a lock of her hair without permission, and the consequent argument created a

breach between the two families.

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The Red Badge of Courage	Stephen Crane	1895	During a battle, Henry survives what he considers to be a lost cause by escaping into a nearby wood, deserting his battalion. He decides that running was the best thing, that he's a small part of the army responsible for saving himself.
Redburn	Herman Melville	1849	Wellington Redburn is a fifteen-year-old from the state of New York, with only one dream - to run away to sea. However, when he does fulfil this long-held fantasy, he quickly finds that reality as a cabin boy is harsher than he ever imagined.
The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	1989	In 1956, Stevens decides to take a motoring trip through the West Country, and the excursion becomes a journey into the past that takes in fascism, two world wars, and an unrealised love between the butler and his housekeeper.
Reservation Blues	Sherman Alexie	1995	The life of Spokane Indian Thomas irrevocably changes when blues legend Robert Johnson miraculously appears on his reservation and passes the misfit storyteller his enchanted guitar.
The Return of the Native	Thomas Hardy	1878	On the evening of Guy Fawkes Night, the country folk light bonfires on the surrounding hills, emphasising the pagan spirit of the heath & its denizens.
Rhinoceros	Eugene Ionesco	1959	When a rhinoceros charges across the town square one Sunday afternoon, Berenger thinks nothing of it. Soon, however, rhinoceroses are popping up everywhere and Berenger's whole world is under threat.
Richard III	William Shakespeare	1591	This play depicts the Machiavellian rise to power and subsequent short reign of King Richard III of England
A River Runs Through It	Norman Maclean	1976	A semi-autobiographical account of Maclean's relationship with his brother Paul and their upbringing in an early 20th-century Montana family in which there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing.
The Road	Cormac McCarthy	2006	A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there.
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	1719	The book is presented as an autobiography of the title character, a castaway who spends twenty-eight years on a remote tropical desert island near Trinidad, encountering cannibals, captives, and mutineers, before ultimately being rescued.
A Room of One's Own	Virginia Woolf	1929	Woolf tells women that they should work toward having five hundred pounds a year and a room of their own in which to write.
A Room with a View	E. M. Forster	1908	Lucy finds herself torn between the intensity of life in Italy and the repressed morals of Edwardian England, personified in her terminally dull fiancé Cecil Vyse.
Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	1595	Two young people fall in love and die because of that love.
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead	Tom Stoppard	1966	<i>Hamlet</i> told from the view of two minor characters, bewildered Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.
Saint Joan	George Bernard Shaw	1923	The play dramatises what is known of the life of Joan of Arc based on the substantial records of her trial.
The Sandbox	Edward Albee	1959	A commentary on the impact of death in people's lives.
The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	1850	Set in the harsh Puritan community of seventeenth-century Boston, this novel tells the tale of an adulterous relationship that results in an illegitimate birth
The Secret Life of Bees	Sue Monk Kidd	2001	Set in South Carolina in 1964, <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed.
Sent for You Yesterday	John Edgar Wideman	1983	Set in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the 1970s, the novel tells the story of Albert Wilkes, who, after seven years on the run, returns to Homewood, an African American neighborhood of the East End.
A Separate Peace	John Knowles	1959	Set at a boys boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, <i>A Separate Peace</i> is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence.
Set This House on Fire	William Styron	1960	The day after Peter Leverett met his old friend Mason Flagg in Italy, Mason was found dead. The hours leading up to his death were a nightmare for Peter, both in their violence and in their maddening unreality.
The Shipping News	E. Annie Proulx	1993	Surprising transformations take place when a newspaper man's elderly aunt and two daughters decide to move back to their family home on the coast of Newfoundland
Siddhartha	Herman Hesse	1922	Siddhartha, a young man, leaves his family for a contemplative life. He comes to a river that signals the true beginning of his life, the beginning of suffering, rejection, peace, and wisdom.
Silas Marner	George Eliot	1861	Embittered by a false accusation, disappointed in friendship and love, the weaver Silas Marner retreats into a long twilight life alone with his loom, and his gold.
Sister Carrie	Theodore Dreiser	1900	The tale of Carrie Meeber's rise to stardom in the theatre and George Hurstwood's slow decline captures the twin poles of exuberance and exhaustion in modern city life as never before.
Sister of My Heart	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni	1997	Urged into arranged marriages, the lives of two cousins take opposite turns: Sudha becomes the daughter-in-law of a rigid small-town household, and Anju goes to America with her new husband and learns to live her own life of secrets.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Slaughterhouse Five	Kurt Vonnegut	1969	The story Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore, and simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his experience as an American prisoner of war.
Snow	Orhan Pamuk	2002	An exiled poet returns to Turkey to report on a wave of suicides among religious girls forbidden to wear their headscarves. But he is also drawn by his memories of the radiant Ipek, now recently divorced.
Snow Falling on Cedars	David Guterson	1994	San Pedro Island is a place so isolated that no one who lives there can afford to make enemies. But in 1954 a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned, and a Japanese American is charged with his murder.
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan	Lisa See	2005	Lily and Snow Flower send messages on fans, reaching out of isolation to share their hopes, dreams, accomplishments, the agony of foot-binding, their arranged marriages, shared loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood.
A Soldier's Play	Charles Fuller	1982	Set in 1944 at Fort Neal, a segregated army camp in Louisiana, this story is an exploration of racial tensions and ambiguities.
Song of Solomon	Toni Morrison	1977	Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly, from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins.
Sons and Lovers	D. H. Lawrence	1913	The marriage of Gertrude and Walter has become a battleground. Repelled by her uneducated and sometimes violent husband, delicate Gertrude devotes her life to her children.
Sophie's Choice	William Styron	1979	Three stories are told: a young Southerner wants to become a writer; a turbulent love-hate affair; and of an awful wound in a woman's past that impels them toward destruction.
The Sorrows of Young Werther	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	1774	Visiting a German village, Werther, a sensitive and romantic young man, meets and falls in love with sweet-natured Lotte. Although Lotte is to marry Albert, he is unable to subdue his passion for her, and his infatuation torments him.
The Sound and the Fury	William Faulkner	1929	The tragedy of the Compson family, their lives fragmented and harrowed by history and legacy.
The Stone Angel	Margaret Laurence	1964	Stubborn, querulous, and self-reliant, ninety year old Hagar Shipley makes a bold last step towards freedom and independence.
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle	David Wroblewski	2008	Born mute, speaking only in sign, Edgar leads an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in remote northern Wisconsin.
The Stranger	Albert Camus	1942	Meursault learns of his mother's death. At her funeral, he expresses none of the expected emotions of grief. Meursault is now incarcerated, and explains his arrest, time in prison, and upcoming trial.
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	1947	After the loss of her family home, Blanche travels to New Orleans to live with her younger, married sister, Stella, and brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. Blanche is in her thirties, and with no money, she has nowhere else to go.
The Street	Ann Petry	1946	<i>The Street</i> tells the poignant, often heartbreaking story of Lutie Johnson, and her spirited struggle to raise her son amid the violence, poverty, and racial dissonance of Harlem in the late 1940s.
Sula	Toni Morrison	1973	This rich and moving novel traces the lives of two African American heroines from their close-knit childhood in a small Ohio town, through their sharply divergent paths of womanhood, to their ultimate confrontation and reconciliation.
Surfacing	Margaret Atwood	1972	The story of a talented artist who goes in search of her missing father on a remote island in northern Quebec. She soon finds herself captivated by the isolated setting.
The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemingway	1926	A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation.
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	1859	After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the ageing Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England.
Tartuffe	Moliere	1664	Tartuffe worms his way into Orgon's household, blinding the master of the house with his religious "devotion," and almost succeeds in his attempts to seduce his wife and disinherit his children.
The Tempest	William Shakespeare	1610	Prospero, a magician on an enchanted island, punishes his enemies, brings happiness to his daughter, and comes to terms with human use of supernatural power.
Tess of the D'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy	1981	When Tess Durbeyfield is driven by family poverty to claim kinship with the wealthy D'Urbervilles and seek a portion of their family fortune, meeting her 'cousin' Alec proves to be her downfall.
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston	1937	When Janie, at sixteen, is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an old man with sixty acres. Janie endures two stifling marriages before meeting the man of her dreams.
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	1958	Things Fall Apart tells two overlapping, intertwining stories, both of which center around Okonkwo, a man from a village in Nigeria.
The Things They Carried	Tim O'Brien	1990	An unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic work of American literature, and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
A Thousand Acres	Jane Smiley	1991	When Larry Cook decides to retire, he offers his land to his three daughters. For Ginny and Rose, the gift makes sense as a reward for years of hard work. But Caroline flatly rejects the idea.
A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini	2007	Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate.
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	1960	The novel addresses racial injustice and the destruction of innocence, issues of class, courage, compassion, and gender roles in the American Deep South, with lessons that emphasize tolerance and decry prejudice.
To the Lighthouse	Virginia Woolf	1927	The serene and maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the tragic yet absurd Mr. Ramsay, and their children and are on holiday on the Isle of Skye. This story is an examination of tensions and allegiances of family life and conflict between men & women.
Tom Jones	Henry Fielding	1749	A founding of mysterious parentage brought up by Mr. Allworthy on his country estate, Tom Jones is deeply in love with the seemingly unattainable Sophia Western, the beautiful daughter of the neighboring squire.
Tracks	Louise Erdrich	1988	This story explores the interrelated lives of four Anishinaabe families living on a reservation.
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith	1943	The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg.
The Trial	Franz Kafka	1925	The terrifying tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly and inexplicably arrested and must defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information.
Trifles	Susan Glaspell	1916	On prompting from the county attorney, Mr. Hale recounts his visit to the Wright's house the previous day, when he found Mrs. Wright behaving strangely and found her husband upstairs, dead.
Tristram Shandy	Laurence Sterne	1767	Tristram's narration of his life story. However, he cannot explain anything simply, and must make explanatory diversions to add context and colour to his tale.
The Turn of the Screw	Henry James	1898	A very young woman's first job: governess for two weirdly beautiful, strangely distant, oddly silent children, Miles and Flora, at a forlorn estate, an estate haunted by a beckoning evil.
Twelfth Night	William Shakespeare	1601	This comedy devises a romantic plot around separated twins, misplaced passions, and mistaken identity. Juxtaposed to it is the satirical story of a self-deluded steward who dreams of becoming "Count Malvolio."
Typical American	Gish Jen	1991	Gish Jen reinvents the American immigrant story through the Chang family, who first come to the United States with no intention of staying. When the Communists assume control of China in 1949, they find themselves in a crisis.
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Harriet Beecher Stowe	1852	An anti-slavery novel that helped lay the groundwork for the Civil War.
U.S.A. (trilogy)	John Dos Passos	1937	A story tracing dozens of characters from the Spanish-American War to the onset of the Depression.
The Vicar of Wakefield	Oliver Goldsmith	1766	This story depicts the rise and fall of the Primrose family, presided over by the benevolent vicar, the abduction of a beautiful heroine, and the machinations of an aristocratic villain.
Victory	Joseph Conrad	1915	Axel Heyst, a dreamer and a restless drifter, believes he can avoid suffering by cutting himself off from others. Then he becomes involved in the operation of a coal company, but when it fails he turns his back on humanity once more.
Volpone	Ben Jonson	1606	This novel is about a wealthy old man who feigns a mortal illness in order to solicit bribes from greedy acquaintances who hope to inherit his fortune.
The Warden	Anthony Trollope	1855	<i>The Warden</i> centers on Mr. Harding, a clergyman of great personal integrity who is nevertheless in possession of an income from a charity far in excess of the sum devoted to the purposes of the foundation.
Washington Square	Henry James	1880	A plain-looking, good-hearted young woman, the only child of a rich widower, is pursued by a charming but unscrupulous man who seeks the wealth she will presumably inherit.
The Waste Land	T. S. Eliot	1922	This poem loosely follows the legend of the Holy Grail and the Fisher King combined with vignettes of contemporary British society.
Watch on the Rhine	Lillian Hellman	1941	A play in which a German man flees Hitler's Germany to find peace and freedom in the United States with his wife's family.
The Way of the World	William Congreve	1700	Mirabell, once a womanizer, seeks to marry a girl he loves, Ms. Millamant. Unfortunately, her aunt, Lady Wishfort, holds power over her 6,000 pound inheritance and despises Mirabell because he once pretended to love her.
The Way We Live Now	Anthony Trollope	1875	Inspired by the financial scandals of the early 1870s, this story dramatised how such greed and dishonesty pervaded the commercial, political, moral, and intellectual life of that era.
We Were the Mulvaney's	Joyce Carol Oates	1996	The Mulvaney's are a large and fortunate family, blessed with good looks, abundant charisma, and boundless promise. But they become transformed by fate into a scattered collection of lost and lonely souls
When the Emperor Was Divine	Julie Otsuka	2002	The story of a Japanese American family sent to an internment camp in the Utah desert during World War II, written

through the perspective of four family members, detailing their eviction from California and their time in camp.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga	2008	The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur.
Who Has Seen the Wind	W. O. Mitchell	1947	This novel tells the story of young Brian, growing up in the 1930s on the Saskatchewan prairies, struggling to come to terms with issues of life and death on the Canadian prairies.
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Edward Albee	1962	The story of the breakdown of the marriage of a middle-aged couple, Martha and George.
Wide Sargasso Sea	Jean Rhys	1966	This is the story of Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress, from the time of her youth in Jamaica, to her unhappy marriage to an English gentleman. He renames her, declares her mad, and requires her to relocate to England.
The Wild Duck	Henrik Ibsen	1884	The idealistic son of a wealthy businessman seeks to expose his father's duplicity and to free his childhood friend from the lies on which his happy home life is based.
Winter in the Blood	James Welch	1974	The story of a young Native American coming to terms with his heritage.
Winter's Tale	William Shakespeare	1600	King Leontes begs his childhood friend, King Polixenes, to extend his visit to Sicilia. Polixenes protests, but after Leontes' pregnant wife, Hermione, pleads with him he agrees to stay.
Wise Blood	Flannery O'Connor	1952	The story of Hazel Motes, in an unending struggle against his innate, desperate faith. He falls under the spell of a street preacher named Asa Hawks.
Woman Warrior	Maxine Hong Kingston	1975	A Chinese American woman tells of the Chinese myths, family stories and events of her California childhood that have shaped her identity.
The Women of Brewster Place	Gloria Naylor	1982	The stories of seven women living in Brewster Place, a bleak inner-city sanctuary, creating a powerful, moving portrait of the strengths, struggles, and hopes of African American women in America.
A Yellow Raft in Blue Water	Michael Dorris	1987	Three generations of Indian women, beset by hardships and torn by angry secrets, are inextricably joined by the bonds of kinship.
The Zoo Story	Edward Albee	1959	The play explores themes of isolation, loneliness, miscommunication, social disparity and dehumanization in a commercial world.
Zoot Suit	Luis Valdez	2001	<i>Zoot Suit</i> tells the story of Henry Reyna and the 38th Street Gang, who were tried for the Sleepy Lagoon murder in Los Angeles, during World War II.

## Dialectical Journal Instructions

### Procedure:

\*These journals may be typed or neatly hand-written on lined notebook paper.

1. To set up the journal, divide your paper into two columns.
2. On the left side of the paper, title the column Text Evidence/Quote.
  - a. The left hand column is where you will write a sentence, phrase or quote from the text you believe illustrates a significant idea along with the page number. You should put “quotation marks” around the sentence(s) to show they are someone else’s words. If the passage is more than two sentences, you may abbreviate using ellipses (...).
3. On the right side of the paper, title the column Literary Response/Analysis.
  - a. The right hand column is where you will analyze the sentence you chose (ideas, insights, questions, reflections etc.).
4. You should have a total of 15 entries for your selected book(s).
5. Your completed journal will be collected for a grade during the first week of school.

Example from The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Text Evidence/Quote	Analysis
“Person’s attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished...” (2).	This preface to the novel, written by Mark Twain, is humorous yet also serious. This novel clearly has “motive,” “moral,” and “plot,” yet Twain is pointing out that it is also just a good story about interesting characters. This reminds me of a Billy Collins poem in which he instructs readers not to “kill” poetry by reading too deeply between the lines.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Major Works of Literature Data Sheet

<b>Title:</b> <b>Author:</b> <b>Date of Publication:</b> <b>Genre:</b>	<b>Biographical Information about the Author:</b>
<b>Historical Information about the period of publication:</b>	<b>Characteristics of the Genre:</b>
<b>Plot Summary (express in five sentences):</b>  1.  2.	3.  4.  5.

<b>Describe the narrator's tone:</b>	<b>An example (or two) that demonstrates the tone:</b>
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<b>Characters</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role in Story</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>

<b>Important details of setting (time and place):</b>	<b>Significance of opening scene:</b>
<b>Key symbols (and what you think they might represent):</b>	<b>Significance of closing scene:</b>
<b>Possible themes, key conflicts or ideas for discussion:</b>	<b>One question you still have about the book:</b>