



High School Reading List

This is a partial list of books and authors recommended for High School students by the Department of English at Hillsdale College. By no means is the list comprehensive, exhaustive, or complete. It is intended as a general guide, a list of authors and texts that illustrate the kinds of literature students can consider valuable and important in preparation for college. Students who enjoy Dostoevsky, for instance, might also wish to explore the works of Tolstoy. Likewise, the tragedy Oedipus should suggest a number of classical Greek dramatists and plays.

Note that many of these texts may be studied in college as well. The inherent quality of such works, as well as the manner and depth of college study, renders them eminently worthy of multiple readings.

Classical antiquity:

The Bible (selections from the Old and New Testaments)
Homer: *The Odyssey*
Sophocles: *Oedipus Rex*
Virgil: *The Aeneid*

English literature:

Anon.: *Beowulf*
Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales* (selections)
Anon.: *Everyman*
Shakespeare: selected tragedies, comedies, histories, and sonnets
Donne: selected poems
Milton: *Lycidas*, and *Paradise Lost*
Pope: *The Rape of the Lock*
Swift: "A Modest Proposal" and *Gulliver's Travels*
Wordsworth and Coleridge: *Lyrical Ballads*
Keats: Odes
Dickens: *A Tale of Two Cities*
Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
Joyce: *Dubliners*
Conrad: selected stories
D.H. Lawrence: selected stories

American literature:

Franklin: *Autobiography*
Irving: selected tales
Thoreau: "On Civil Disobedience" and *Walden*
Hawthorne: selected tales and *The Scarlet Letter*
Poe: selected poems and tales
Twain: *Huckleberry Finn*
James: *The Turn of the Screw*
Dickinson: selected poems

19th century Russian literature:

Dostoevsky: *Crime and Punishment*

Melville: selected tales
Whitman: *Leaves of Grass*
Frost: selected poems
Hemingway: *In Our Time*
Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
Faulkner: *The Unvanquished*
Steinbeck: *Grapes of Wrath*
Eliot: selected poems



List of Representative Great Books

This list is an illustration of the kinds of works students read and study in English 101 and 102, "Rhetoric and the Great Books" at Hillsdale College. Many students will read other works as well, and not everything below is taught in every class. Longer works may be read in excerpts. As an illustration of what is studied, however, the list reveals the breadth of literature students may expect to study in their Freshman year.

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| Homer: <i>The Odyssey, The Iliad</i> | Pope: <i>The Rape of the Lock; An Essay on Man</i> |
| Aeschylus: <i>Oresteia</i> | Voltaire: <i>Candide</i> |
| Sophocles: <i>Oedipus the King, Antigone</i> | Rousseau: <i>Confessions</i> |
| Euripedes: <i>Medea</i> | Goethe: <i>Faust</i> |
| Plato: <i>The Apology of Socrates, Phaedo</i> | Heine: Lyric poems |
| Aristotle: <i>Poetics</i> | Blake: selected poetry |
| Virgil: <i>The Aeneid</i> | Wordsworth: selected poetry |
| Old Testament: <i>Genesis, Job, Psalms.</i> | Coleridge: selected poetry |
| New Testament: <i>Matthew, Luke.</i> | Shelley: selected poetry |
| St. Augustine: <i>Confessions.</i> | Keats: selected poetry |
| St. Benedict: <i>Rule</i> | Whitman: selected poetry |
| Anon.: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> | Dickinson: selected poetry |
| Dante: <i>The Divine Comedy</i> | Dostoevsky: <i>Notes from Underground</i> |
| Boccaccio: <i>The Decameron</i> | Baudelaire: selected poetry |
| Chaucer: <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> | Tolstoy: <i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i> |
| Anon.: <i>Everyman</i> | Ibsen: <i>Hedda Gabler</i> |
| Petrarch: <i>Sonnets</i> | Chekhov: <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> |
| Erasmus: <i>The Praise of Folly</i> | Freud: "Dora" |
| Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i> | Yeats: selected poetry |
| Shakespeare: <i>Hamlet, Othello,</i> | Mann: "Death in Venice" |
| Castiglione: <i>The Book of the Courtier</i> | James Joyce: "The Dead" |
| Rabelais: <i>Gargantua and Pantagruel</i> | Virginia Woolf: "A Room of One's Own" |
| Montaigne: <i>Essays</i> | Kafka: <i>The Metamorphosis</i> |
| Cervantes: <i>Don Quixote</i> | Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,"
<i>The Waste Land, Four Quartets</i> |
| Moliere: <i>Tartuffe</i> | Camus: "The Guest" |
| Swift: "A Modest Proposal" | Beckett: <i>Endgame</i> |