

Timeless Classics

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Timeless Classics

An old Chinese proverb says, "A book is like a garden in the pocket." Many of us who have valued reading in our early years derive enjoyment from reading to our children, and now, as I do, to our grandchildren. Books are voyages of discovery and transforming instruments to all of us.

A few years ago, the National Endowment for the Humanities asked schools around the country to send reading lists of their favorite books. Noticing how often books that other generations have enjoyed appear on these lists, we decided to make this compilation of tried-and-true titles. The works herein, published in 1960 or earlier, have delighted generations of readers.

Some have asked, "Is the book dead?" as we move into new computer technologies. Not at all. Print text will co-exist with these new mediums.

As concerned parents, educators, and counselors, we must continue to emphasize the importance of access to good reading in order to shape our students' learning process, enhance their understanding of American heritage, and open up a new world of self-fulfillment. As Aldous Huxley said, "The proper study of mankind is books."

There are some excellent older books that are missing from the list, because they appeared too infrequently in the school selections: Kate Douglas Wiggin's *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*, for example; Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*; Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Despite the absences, we hope this compilation will nevertheless bring hours of pleasure and enlightenment.

The titles presented for suggested extracurricular reading provide a solid foundation and hours of enjoyment for students and scholars of all ages.

We at NEH hope that the "Timeless Classics" booklist will continue to be a rich source of material for everyone.

Sheldon Hackney
Chairman

"Books are humanity in print" ...Barbara Tuchman

"Literature is an investment of genius which pays

dividends to all subsequent times." ...John Burroughs

"All that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books." ...Thomas Carlyle

Kindergarten through Grade 6

Adamson, Joy
Born Free

Aesop
Fables*

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Women

Andersen, Hans Christian
Fairy tales

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

Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin
Miss Hickory

* Recommended for K-3, either for reading
by children or for reading to them.

Barrie, J.M.
Peter Pan

Baum, L. Frank
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Bemelmans, Ludwig
Madeline series*

Bond, Michael
A Bear Called Paddington

Boston, L.M.
The Children of Green Knowe

Brink, Carol Ryrie
Caddie Woodlawn

Brown, Margaret Wise

Goodnight, Moon*

Brunhoff, Jean de
The Story of Babar*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Secret Garden

Burton, Virginia Lee
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*

Butterworth, Oliver
The Enormous Egg

Clark, Ann Nolan
Secret of the Andes

Cleary, Beverly
Henry Huggins series

Coatsworth, Elizabeth
The Cat Who Went to Heaven

Dagliesh, Alice
The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*
The Courage of Sarah Noble*

De Angeli, Marguerite
The Door in the Wall

De Jong, Meindert
The House of Sixty Fathers
The Wheel on the School

Dodge, Mary Mapes
Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates

Du Bois, William Pene
The Twenty-One Balloons

Edmonds, Walter D.
The Matchlock Gun

Estes, Eleanor
Ginger Pye
Moffats series

Farley, Walter
The Black Stallion

Field, Rachel
Hitty, Her First Hundred Years

Fritz, Jean
The Cabin Faced West

Gilbreth, Frank B. and
Ernestine G. Carey
Cheaper By the Dozen

Gipson, Fred
Old Yeller

Godden, Rumer
The Mousewife*

Grahame, Kenneth
The Reluctant Dragon*
The Wind in the Willows

Gray, Elizabeth Janet
Adam of the Road

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm
Grimm's Fairy Tales

Hawes, Charles
The Dark Frigate

Haywood, Carolyn
Betsy series*

Henry, Marguerite
King of the Wind
Misty of Chincoteague

Keith, Harold
Rifles for Watie

Kelly, Eric
The Trumpeter of Krakow

Kipling, Rudyard

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Captains Courageous
Just So Stories for
Little Children*
The Jungle Books

Kjelgaard, Jim
Big Red

Knight, Eric
Lassie Come Home

Krumgold, Joseph
...and Now Miguel
Onion John

LaFarge, Oliver
Laughing Boy

Lamb, Charles and Mary
Tales from Shakespear

Latham, Jean Lee
Carry on, Mr. Bowditch

Lawson, Robert
Ben & Me
Rabbit Hill

Leaf, Munro
The Story of Ferdinand*

Lear, Edward
Book of Nonsense*

Lenski, Lois
Strawberry Girl

Lewis, C.S.
Chronicles of Narnia series

Lindgren, Astrid
Pippi Longstocking series

Lofting, Hugh
Doctor Doolittle series

London, Jack
The Call of the Wild
White Fang

MacDonald, Betty
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*

MacGregor, Ellen
Miss Pickerell series

McCloskey, Robert
Blueberries for Sal*
Homer Price
Make Way for Ducklings*

McSwigan, Marie
Snow Treasure

Meigs, Cornelia
Invincible Louisa

Milne, A.A.
The House at Pooh Corner*
Now We Are Six*
When We Were Very Young*
Winnie-the-Pooh*

Minarik, Else Holmelund
Little Bear

Montgomery, L.M.
Anne of Green Gables

Mukerji, Dhan Ghopal
Gay-Neck, the Story of a Pigeon

Norton, Mary
The Borrowers series

O'Hara, Mary
My Friend Flicka

Pearce, Philippa
Tom's Midnight Garden

Perrault, Charles
Cinderella*

Potter, Beatrix
The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Pyle, Howard
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood

Rey, H.A.
Curious George series*

Richter, Conrad
The Light in the Forest

Selden, George
The Cricket in Times Square*

Seuss, Dr.
The Cat in the Hat*

Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty

Sorenson, Virginia
Miracles on Maple Hill

Speare, Elizabeth George
The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Sperry, Armstrong
Call It Courage

Spyri, Johanna
Heidi

Steinbeck, John
The Red Pony

Stevenson, Robert Louis
A Child's Garden of Verses*
Kidnapped
Treasure Island

Travers, Pamela L.
Mary Poppins series

Van Loon, Hendrik
The Story of Mankind

White, E.B.
Charlotte's Web
Stuart Little

Wilder, Laura Ingalls
Little House series

Williams, Margery
The Velveteen Rabbit*

Wyss, Johann
Swiss Family Robinson

Zion, Gene
Harry the Dirty Dog*

Grades 7 and 8

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Men

Bagnold, Enid
National Velvet

Blackmore, Richard D.
Lorna Doone

Boulle, Pierre
The Bridge over the River Kwai

Bradbury, Ray
Dandelion Wine
Fahrenheit 451
The Illustrated Man
Martian Chronicles

Buchan, John
The Thirty-Nine Steps

Bunyan, John
The Pilgrim's Progress

Carroll, Lewis
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Through the Looking Glass

Clark, Walter
The Ox-Bow Incident

Cooper, James Fenimore
The Deerslayer
The Last of the Mohicans

Curie, Eve
Madame Curie: A Biography

Dana, Richard Henry
Two Years before the Mast

Day, Clarence
Life with Father

Defoe, Daniel
Robinson Crusoe

Dickens, Charles
A Christmas Carol

Douglas, Lloyd C.
The Robe

Doyle, Arthur Conan
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Dumas, Alexander
The Count of Monte Christo
The Three Musketeers

Du Maurier, Daphne
Rebecca

Edmonds, Walter D.
Drums along the Mohawk

Ferber, Edna
Cimarron

Forbes, Esther
Johnny Tremain

Forester, C.S.
The African Queen

The Hornblower series

Frank, Anne

Diary of a Young Girl

Frost, Robert

Poems

Gallico, Paul

The Snow Goose

Gunther, John

Death Be Not Proud

Guthrie, A.B.

The Big Sky

Haggard, H. Rider

King Solomon's Mines

Hansberry, Lorraine

Raisin in the Sun

Hemingway, Ernest

The Old Man and the Sea

Hersey, John

A Bell for Adano

Hiroshima

The Wall

Heyerdahl, Thor

Kon-Tiki

Hilton, James

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

Lost Horizon

Hudson, W.H.

Green Mansions

Hughes, Richard

A High Wind in Jamaica

Hugo, Victor

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Irving, Washington
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Keller, Helen
Story of My Life

Kennedy, John F.
Profiles in Courage

Kipling, Rudyard
Kim

Knowles, John
A Separate Peace

Lee, Harper
To Kill a Mockingbird

London, Jack
The Sea Wolf

Lord, Walter
A Night to Remember

Malory, Sir Thomas
Le Morte d'Arthur

Maxwell, Gavin
Ring of Bright Water

McCullers, Carson
Member of the Wedding

Michener, James
The Bridges at Toko-Ri

Mitchell, Margaret
Gone with the Wind

Nordhoff, Charles and J.N. Hall
Mutiny on the Bounty

O'Dell, Scott
Island of the Blue Dolphins

Orczy, Baroness Emma
The Scarlet Pimpernel

Paton, Alan

Cry, the Beloved Country

Pyle, Howard
Men of Iron

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
The Yearling

Renault, Mary
The King Must Die

Roberts, Kenneth
Northwest Passage

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de
The Little Prince
Wind, Sand and Stars

Saki
Stories

Schaefer, Jack
Shane

Scott, Sir Walter
Ivanhoe

Shelley, Mary
Frankenstein

Smith, Betty
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Steinbeck, John
The Pearl
Tortilla Flat

Stevenson, Robert Louis
The Black Arrow
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll
and Mr. Hyde

Stoker, Bram
Dracula

Thurber, James
The Thurber Carnival

Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Hobbit
The Lord of the Rings

Twain, Mark
The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
A Connecticut Yankee in
King Arthur's Court
Innocents Abroad
Life on the Mississippi
The Prince and the Pauper

Verne, Jules
Around the World in Eighty Days
Journey to the Center of the Earth
Mysterious Island
20,000 Leagues under the Sea

Wallace, Lewis
Ben-Hur

Washington, Booker T.
Up from Slavery

Wells, H.G.
The Time Machine
War of the Worlds

Wharton, Edith
Ethan Frome

Wilder, Thornton
The Bridge of San Luis Rey

Wister, Owen
The Virginian

Yates, Elizabeth
Amos Fortune, Free Man

Grades 9 through 12

Agee, James

A Death in the Family

Anderson, Sherwood
Winesburg, Ohio

Austen, Jane
Emma
Northanger Abbey
Pride and Prejudice
Sense and Sensibility

Baldwin, James
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Balzac, Honore de
Pere Goriot

Beckett, Samuel
Waiting for Godot

The Bible
Old Testament
New Testament

Bolt, Robert
A Man for All Seasons

Bronte, Charlotte
Jane Eyre

Bronte, Emily
Wuthering Heights

Browning, Robert
Poems

Buck, Pearl
The Good Earth

Butler, Samuel
The Way of All Flesh

Camus, Albert
The Plague
The Stranger

Cather, Willa

Death Comes for the Archbishop
My Antonia

Cervantes, Miguel
Don Quixote

Chaucer, Geoffrey
The Canterbury Tales

Chekhov, Anton
The Cherry Orchard

Chopin, Kate
The Awakening

Collins, Wilkie
The Moonstone

Conrad, Joseph
Heart of Darkness
Lord Jim
The Secret Sharer
Victory

Crane, Stephen
The Red Badge of Courage

Dante
The Divine Comedy

Defoe, Daniel
Moll Flanders

Dickens, Charles
Bleak House
David Copperfield
Great Expectations
Hard Times
Oliver Twist
A Tale of Two Cities

Dickinson, Emily
Poems

Dinesen, Isak
Out of Africa

Dostoevski, Fyodor
Brothers Karamazov
Crime and Punishment

Dreiser, Theodore
An American Tragedy
Sister Carrie

Eliot, George
Adam Bede
Middlemarch
Mill on the Floss
Silas Marner

Eliot, T.S.
Murder in the Cathedral

Ellison, Ralph
Invisible Man

Emerson, Ralph Waldo
Essays

Faulkner, William
Absalom, Absalom!
As I Lay Dying
Intruder in the Dust
Light in August
The Sound and the Fury

Fielding, Henry
Joseph Andrews
Tom Jones

Fitzgerald, F. Scott
The Great Gatsby
Tender Is the Night

Flaubert, Gustave
Madame Bovary

Forster, E.M.
A Passage to India
A Room with a View

Franklin, Benjamin
The Autobiography of

Benjamin Franklin

Galsworthy, John
The Forsyte Saga

Golding, William
Lord of the Flies

Goldsmith, Oliver
She Stoops to Conquer

Graves, Robert
I, Claudius

Greene, Graham
The Heart of the Matter
The Power and the Glory

Hamilton, Edith
Mythology

Hardy, Thomas
Far From the Madding Crowd
Jude the Obscure
The Mayor of Casterbridge
The Return of the Native
Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Hawthorne, Nathaniel
The House of the Seven Gables
The Scarlet Letter

Hemingway, Ernest
A Farewell to Arms
For Whom the Bell Tolls
The Sun Also Rises

Henry, O.
Stories

Hersey, John
A Single Pebble

Hesse, Hermann
Demian
Siddhartha
Steppenwolf

Homer

The Iliad
The Odyssey

Hughes, Langston

Poems

Hugo, Victor

Les Miserables

Huxley, Aldous

Brave New World

Ibsen, Henrik

A Doll's House
An Enemy of the People
Ghosts
Hedda Gabler
The Master Builder
The Wild Duck

James, Henry

The American
Daisy Miller
Portrait of a Lady
The Turn of the Screw

Joyce, James

Portrait of the Artist
As a Young Man
Dubliners

Kafka, Franz

The Castle
Metamorphosis
The Trial

Keats, John

Poems

Kerouac, Jack

On the Road

Koestler, Arthur

Darkness at Noon

Lawrence, D.H.
Sons and Lovers

Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee
Inherit the Wind

Lewis, Sinclair
Arrowsmith
Babbitt
Main Street

Llewellyn, Richard
How Green Was My Valley

Machiavelli
The Prince

MacLeish, Archibald
J.B.

Mann, Thomas
Buddenbrooks
The Magic Mountain

Marlowe, Christopher
Dr. Faustus

Maugham, Somerset
Of Human Bondage

McCullers, Carson
The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

Melville, Herman
Billy Budd
Moby-Dick
Typee

Miller, Arthur
The Crucible
Death of a Salesman

Monsarrat, Nicholas
The Cruel Sea

O'Neill, Eugene

The Emperor Jones
A Long Day's Journey into Night
Mourning Becomes Electra

Orwell, George
Animal Farm
1984

Pasternak, Boris
Doctor Zhivago

Poe, Edgar Allan
Short stories

Remarque, Erich
All Quiet on the Western Front

Rolvaag, O.E.
Giants in the Earth

Rostand, Edmond
Cyrano de Bergerac

Salinger, J.D.
The Catcher in the Rye

Sandburg, Carl
Abraham Lincoln:
The Prairie Years
Abraham Lincoln:
The War Years

Saroyan, William
The Human Comedy

Sayers, Dorothy
The Nine Tailors

Shakespeare, William
Plays and sonnets

Shaw, George Bernard
Arms and the Man
Major Barbara
Pygmalion
Saint Joan

Sheridan, Richard B.
The School for Scandal

Shute, Nevil
On the Beach

Sinclair, Upton
The Jungle

Sophocles
Antigone
Oedipus Rex

Steinbeck, John
East of Eden
The Grapes of Wrath
Of Mice and Men

Stowe, Harriet Beecher
Uncle Tom's Cabin

Swift, Jonathan
Gulliver's Travels

Thackeray, William M.
Vanity Fair

Thoreau, Henry David
Walden

Tolstoy, Leo
Anna Karenina
War and Peace

Trollope, Anthony
Barchester Towers

Turgenev, Ivan
Fathers and Sons

Twain, Mark
Pudd'nhead Wilson

Updike, John
Rabbit Run

Vergil
The Aeneid

Voltaire
Candide

Warren, Robert Penn
All the King's Men

Waugh, Evelyn
Brideshead Revisited
A Handful of Dust

Wharton, Edith
Age of Innocence

White, T.H.
The Once and Future King
The Sword in the Stone

Wilde, Oscar
The Importance of Being Earnest
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wilder, Thornton
Our Town

Williams, Tennessee
The Glass Menagerie
A Streetcar Named Desire

Wolfe, Thomas
Look Homeward, Angel

Woolf, Virginia
Mrs. Dalloway
To the Lighthouse

Wouk, Herman
The Caine Mutiny

Wright, Richard
Black Boy
Native Son

