veritas

178 Books That Shaped the World

A CLASSIC LITERATURE READING LIST

Grades 7–12



Before You Begin

The Great Books are works that have shaped how people think, argue, and understand the world for centuries.

From Homer to Dostoevsky, these texts endure because they speak to questions that never go away. What does it mean to live well? What do we owe each other? How do we face suffering, injustice, and death?

This reading list includes 178 works of classic literature, organized from middle school through high school and adapted from Veritas Press's Omnibus.

Whether you're building a homeschool curriculum, supplementing your student's education, or simply looking for what to read next, this is the place to start.

Enjoy.

☐ Check off each title as your student finishes it.

TAP any title to see it in the Veritas Press store.

A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK

How to Read a Great Book

Here's a simple framework to help you and your student get the most out of these texts.

I BEFORE YOU READ

Know what you're getting into. Spend five minutes learning about the author and the context. When was this written? What was happening in the world? What question or problem was the author trying to address?

Expect difficulty. These books have endured for centuries because they reward careful attention. If a passage confuses you, that's normal. Slow down, reread, and keep going. The confusion is often where the learning happens.

II WHILE YOU READ

Read with a pencil. Mark passages that strike you, lines that are beautiful, or puzzling, or that you disagree with. Underline. Write questions in the margins. A Great Book is meant to be engaged.

Pay attention to what bothers you. The moments where you feel resistance ("That can't be right" or "I don't like this") are often the most important. Investigate them.

Look for the argument. Many Great Books are making a case for something. What does the author want you to believe? What evidence or reasoning do they offer? You don't have to agree, but you should understand.

III AFTER YOU READ

Talk about it. The Great Books come alive in conversation. Discuss what you read with your student, your spouse, a friend. Ask questions like:

- *What surprised you?*
- *What did the author get right (or wrong)?*
- *How does this connect to what we believe?*
- *Why do you think people are still reading this work?*

Sit with it. Not every book will change your life. But some will. Give the ideas time to settle. You may find yourself thinking about a passage weeks or months later. That's the mark of a book that mattered.

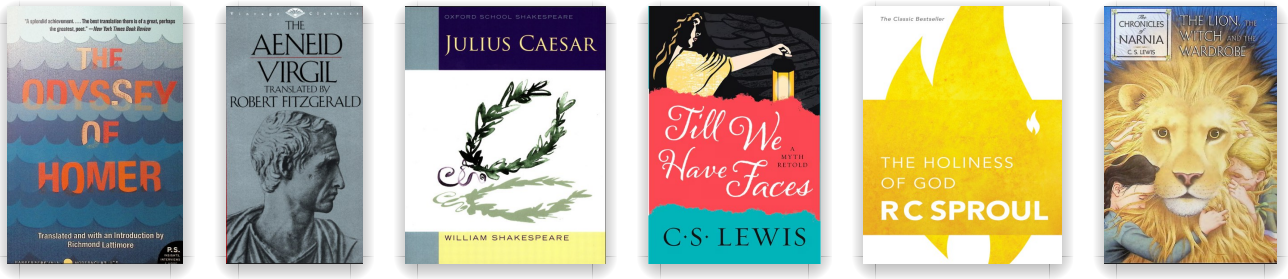
LEADING THE DISCUSSION

The goal is to think together, and the best discussions happen when everyone is genuinely curious. So ask open-ended questions! Share your own reactions. And admit when you're not sure yourself.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th Grade

26 titles



CLASSIC LITERATURE

- [ ] Gilgamesh
- [ ] The Codes of Hammurabi and Moses
- [ ] Odyssey of Homer
- [ ] The Landmark Herodotus: The Histories
- [ ] Aeschylus: The Oresteia
- [ ] Plutarch's Lives
- [ ] Sophocles: Theban Trilogy
- [ ] The Last Days of Socrates
- [ ] Livy: The Early History of Rome, Books 1–5
- [ ] The Aeneid
- [ ] The Twelve Caesars
- [ ] Julius Caesar

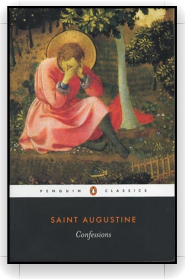
MODERN CLASSICS

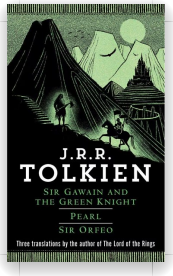
- [ ] Chosen by God
- [ ] Till We Have Faces
- [ ] The Magician's Nephew
- [ ] The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe
- [ ] The Horse and His Boy
- [ ] Prince Caspian
- [ ] The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
- [ ] The Silver Chair
- [ ] The Last Battle
- [ ] The Best Things in Life
- [ ] The Unaborted Socrates
- [ ] The Eagle of the Ninth
- [ ] The Screwtape Letters
- [ ] The Holiness of God

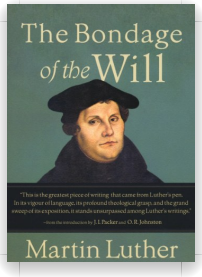
MIDDLE SCHOOL

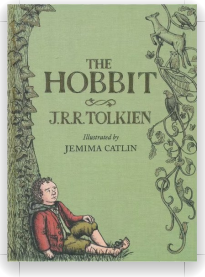
8th Grade

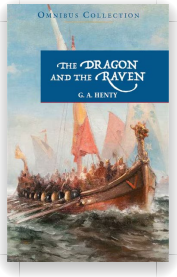
24 titles

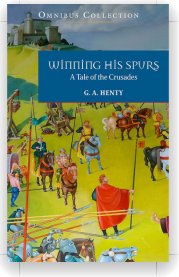












CLASSIC LITERATURE

- [ ] Eusebius: The Church History
- [ ] Confessions
- [ ] On the Incarnation
- [ ] Ecclesiastical History of the English People
- [ ] The Rule of St. Benedict
- [ ] Beowulf
- [ ] Song of Roland
- [ ] The History of the Kings of Britain
- [ ] Macbeth
- [ ] Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- [ ] The Divine Comedy: Inferno
- [ ] The Canterbury Tales
- [ ] The Bondage of the Will
- [ ] Henry V
- [ ] Richard III
- [ ] A Midsummer Night's Dream

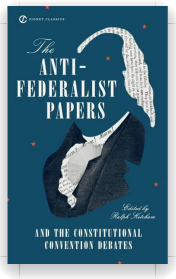
MODERN CLASSICS

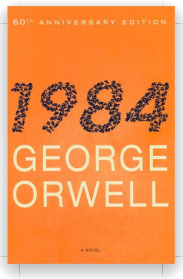
- [ ] The Hobbit
- [ ] The Fellowship of the Ring
- [ ] The Two Towers
- [ ] The Nine Tailors
- [ ] The Dragon and the Raven
- [ ] The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
- [ ] Winning His Spurs
- [ ] Return of the King

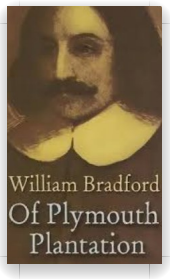
HIGH SCHOOL

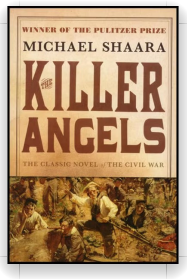
9th Grade

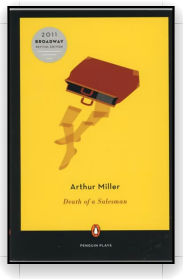
29 titles

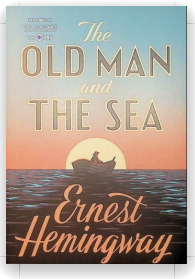












CLASSIC LITERATURE

- [ ] The Westminster Confession of Faith
- [ ] The Pilgrim's Progress
- [ ] Of Plymouth Plantation
- [ ] The Social Contract
- [ ] The Federalist Papers
- [ ] The Anti-Federalist Papers
- [ ] Reflections on the Revolution in France
- [ ] Frankenstein
- [ ] Gulliver's Travels
- [ ] Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings
- [ ] The Communist Manifesto
- [ ] Mein Kampf
- [ ] The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
- [ ] The Autobiography of Charles G. Finney
- [ ] Foxe's Book of Martyrs
- [ ] Pride & Prejudice

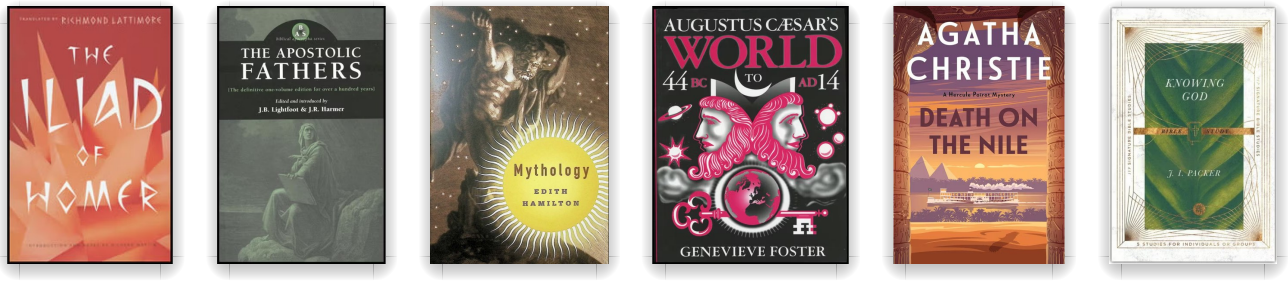
MODERN CLASSICS

- [ ] The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
- [ ] Little Women
- [ ] The Killer Angels
- [ ] Christianity & Liberalism
- [ ] The Old Man and the Sea
- [ ] Animal Farm
- [ ] Death of a Salesman
- [ ] Postmodern Times
- [ ] How Should We Then Live?
- [ ] The Great Gatsby
- [ ] Uncle Tom's Cabin
- [ ] 1984
- [ ] A Tale of Two Cities

HIGH SCHOOL

10th Grade

29 titles



CLASSIC LITERATURE

- [ ] The Iliad of Homer
- [ ] Landmark Thucydides
- [ ] Bacchae
- [ ] Lysistrata and Other Plays
- [ ] The Republic
- [ ] Ethics and Poetics
- [ ] The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha
- [ ] Thirteen Books of Euclid's Elements
- [ ] Aesop's Fables
- [ ] Antony & Cleopatra
- [ ] Troilus and Cressida
- [ ] On the Nature of Things
- [ ] Cicero
- [ ] Annals of Imperial Rome
- [ ] Eclogues and Georgics
- [ ] Metamorphoses
- [ ] Josephus
- [ ] Marcus Aurelius: Meditations
- [ ] The Apostolic Fathers
- [ ] The War with Hannibal
- [ ] Mythology
- [ ] Plutarch's Lives

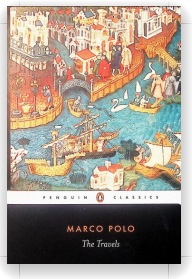
MODERN CLASSICS

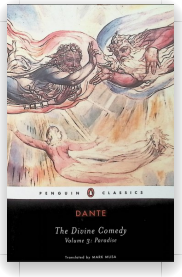
- [ ] Death on the Nile
- [ ] Augustus Caesar's World
- [ ] Art & The Bible
- [ ] The Lost World
- [ ] Knowing God
- [ ] 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
- [ ] Phantastes

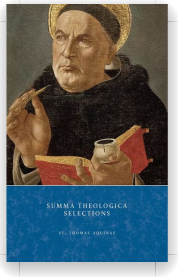
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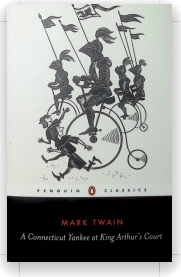
11th Grade

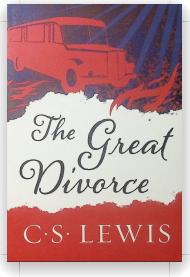
31 titles

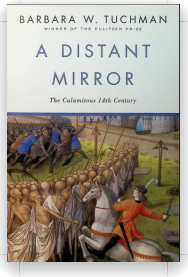












CLASSIC LITERATURE

- [ ] City of God
- [ ] The Consolation of Philosophy
- [ ] Two Lives of Charlemagne
- [ ] Chronicle of the Kings of England
- [ ] Summa Theologica Selections
- [ ] Inferno
- [ ] Purgatorio
- [ ] Paradiso
- [ ] The Lives of Thomas Becket
- [ ] Tartuffe
- [ ] Le Morte d'Arthur
- [ ] The Canterbury Tales
- [ ] The Prince
- [ ] The Praise of Folly
- [ ] Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings
- [ ] Fierce Wars and Faithful Loves
- [ ] Romeo and Juliet
- [ ] The Koran
- [ ] Decameron
- [ ] The Travels of Marco Polo
- [ ] Othello
- [ ] Don Quixote
- [ ] The Saga of the Volsungs

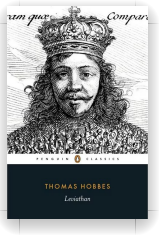
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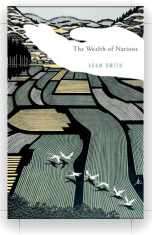
- [ ] A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- [ ] St. Thomas Aquinas & St. Francis of Assisi
- [ ] The Great Divorce
- [ ] A Distant Mirror
- [ ] Here I Stand
- [ ] Heidelberg Catechism
- [ ] The Name of the Rose
- [ ] The Idylls of the King

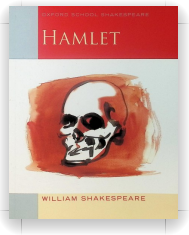
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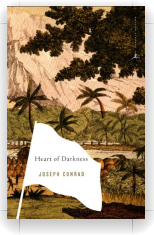
12th Grade

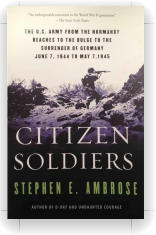
39 titles

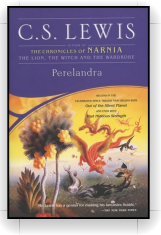












CLASSIC LITERATURE

- [ ] Paradise Lost
- [ ] Robinson Crusoe
- [ ] Pensées
- [ ] Leviathan
- [ ] Emma
- [ ] Enlightenment Reader
- [ ] Wealth of Nations
- [ ] Origins & Principles of the American Revolution
- [ ] On Christian Doctrine
- [ ] Hamlet
- [ ] Common Sense
- [ ] Democracy in America

MODERN CLASSICS

- [ ] Out of the Silent Planet
- [ ] Perelandra
- [ ] John Adams
- [ ] The Red Badge of Courage
- [ ] Self-Reliance
- [ ] Walden & Civil Disobedience
- [ ] Huckleberry Finn
- [ ] Battle Cry of Freedom
- [ ] All Quiet on the Western Front
- [ ] The Sun Also Rises
- [ ] Citizen Soldiers
- [ ] One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich
- [ ] Leaves of Grass
- [ ] Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- [ ] The Picture of Dorian Gray
- [ ] The Interpretation of Dreams
- [ ] The Guns of August
- [ ] That Hideous Strength
- [ ] Heart of Darkness
- [ ] The Jungle
- [ ] 50 Great Short Stories
- [ ] Moby-Dick
- [ ] The Stranger
- [ ] I Have a Dream
- [ ] Brave New World
- [ ] Notes from Underground
- [ ] Beyond Good & Evil

WANT MORE THAN A LIST?

Discover Omnibus

A reading list is a starting point, but books alone don't make an education. Students need context to understand what they're reading, instruction to guide them through difficult texts, and discussion to make the ideas their own.

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Self-Paced

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