

*Tenth grade honors reading list*

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*A Raisin in the Sun* – Lorraine Hansberry (ISBN: 0679755330)

*Watership Down* – Richard Adams (ISBN: 0743277708)

*A Separate Peace* – John Knowles (ISBN: 0743253973)

*Animal Farm* - George Orwell

*Brave New World* - Aldous Huxley

[\*Canterbury Tales\*](#) - [Geoffrey Chaucer](#)

[\*Gulliver's Travels\*](#) - [Jonathan Swift](#)

*Heart of Darkness* - [Joseph Conrad](#)

*Jane Eyre* - [Charlotte Bronte](#)

*Lord Jim* - [Joseph Conrad](#)

*1984* - George Orwell

[\*Pride and Prejudice\*](#) - [Jane Austen](#)

*Return of the Native* [Thomas Hardy](#)

*Saint Joan* - George Bernard Shaw

*Silas Marner* - [George Eliot](#)

*Tale of Two Cities* - Charles Dickens

*Turn of the Screw* - [Henry James](#)

[Wuthering Heights](#) - [Elizabeth Bronte](#)

Emma by Jane Austen (1070L)

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer (1070L)

O Pioneers by Willa Cather (930L)

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas (830L)

Bruchko by Bruce Olson

The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo (800L)

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, by Jules Verne (870L)

Agee, James. *A Death in the Family*

The enchanted childhood summer of 1915 suddenly becomes a baffling experience for Rufus Follet when his father dies.

Bellow, Saul. *The Adventures of Augie March*

A modern Huckleberry Finn also rebels against society and its constricting influences. Compare and contrast this with Twain's classic.

Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*

Alluding to Shakespeare's lines in Macbeth, this complex book tells the bleak story of a Southern family from many viewpoints. Nobel Prize-winning American author.

Gibbons, Kay. *Ellen Foster*

Award-winning book. Casting an unflinching yet humorous eye on her situation, Ellen survives her mother's death, an abusive father, and uncaring relatives to find for herself a loving home and a new mama.

Gunther, John. *Death Be Not Proud*

This is the author's tribute to his son Johnny, who died at the age of 17 of a brain tumor.

Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

A timeless epic of the Spanish Civil War, portraying every facet of human emotions. If you examine Picasso's Guernica, you'll find it was based on this Civil War.

Hemingway, Ernest. *Men without Women*

This is a collection of short stories about men alone; men hunting, fishing, developing father-son relationships. Understated, spare language.

Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

In the summer of 1953, during a little league game, 11-year-old Owen Meany hits a foul ball that

kills his best friend's mother. What happens to him after that fateful day makes this book extraordinary, terrifying, and unforgettable.

McCullers, Carson. *Member of the Wedding*

A young Southern Girl is determined to be the third party on a honeymoon, despite all advice.

Malumud, Bernard. *The Natural*

All he ever wanted was to be the best in the game of baseball.

Salinger, J.D. *Franny and Zooey*

Written by the author of *Catcher in the Rye*, this novel shows kids pushed too hard by ambitious parents. Two siblings deal with the death of an older brother.

Twain, Mark. *The Prince and the Pauper*

Written by a favorite American author, this concerns a prince who changes place with a pauper. Anti-class conscious, in Twain's tradition.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*

A black girl suffers brutal treatment at home and is sent off in marriage to a cruel man with children. She learns of possibilities from her sister and from a friend and becomes self-directed and happy.

## **Historical Fiction**

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*

At age fourteen, Antonia Shimerda arrives on the Nebraska frontier as part of a family of Bohemian immigrants. Broken by the rigors of prairie life, Antonia's father commits suicide, leaving his teenage daughter to take over the farm and coming baby. Her great spirit and unselfish nature carry Antonia through difficult times, ultimately leading to a successful farm and a loving family of her own.

Clark, Walter. *The Ox-Bow Incident*

Novel about the lynching of three innocent men on the Western frontier.

Dana, Richard. *Two Years Before the Mast*

The narrative of the author's journey from Boston around the Cape Horn and his landing at a port on the western coast of the United States.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*

A young African-American man seeking identity during his high school and college days, and later in New York's Harlem, relates his terrifying experiences.

Faulkner, William. *The Bear*

Ike McCaslin's hunting trips for the legendary bear, Old Ben, are played out against opposing ideas of corruption and innocence.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*

Hester, a married Puritan woman with an out-of-wedlock baby named Pearl, is publicly punished for adultery and ridiculed by Boston townspeople. Because she refuses to identify the baby's father, many complications follow.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*

An American Nobel-prize author writes of an American ambulance driver and a British nurse based in Italy during World War I before the United States officially entered the war. It is a story of love and of war.

Lewis, Sinclair. *Babbitt*

A satire on the small-town American business man.

London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*

Rugged, outdoor story of the sled dog Buck, who, mistreated by his master, breaks free to roam the Alaskan wilderness.

Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone with the Wind*

Set during the Civil War, this novel's heroine is Scarlett O'Hara, a wealthy Southerner. The war brings problems for Scarlett, and she learns to live with struggles of family, love, and survival as life continues in the South during and after the war.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*

In this just-published book, "this year's best historical thriller," you learn of what happens to the men on a just-sunk whaleship, the first Nantucket ship attacked and sunk by a whale. This historical incident from 1819 provided Melville's background for *Moby Dick*, and provides outstanding background for American History study. This is a page-turner.

Schaefer, Jack. *Shane*

A gunman helps the homesteaders break the power of the Wyoming cattlemen. An enduring tale of the old West about a boy's love for the man who taught him the meaning of courage and self-respect.

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*

A muck-raking novel about the problems of industry in America after the turn of the century: reformist.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*

Famous novel of the migrant Joad family that leaves Oklahoma for California after the Dust Storms of the Depression make it impossible for them to continue on their land. Challenges they face as individuals and as a family make continuing on heroic.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

This is a classic novel about blacks in slavery before the Civil War and of their oppression. Loved by Abolitionists and those morally opposed to slavery. Sound background reading for English and History and for understanding a great American conflict.

Tarkington, Booth. *Seventeen*  
High school love during the era of the Flappers

Wister, Owen. *The Virginian*  
This is a classic Western that influenced other Westerns that followed. Written by a New Jersey writer.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*  
Bigger Thomas is a young African-American man in Chicago in the 1930's whose fury at and fear of the white world bring him increasing difficulties when he is accused of a crime in the white world.

### **Mystery and Suspense**

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*

Capote's famous "non-fiction novel" about killers in America. Beautiful writing style.

Gilstrap, John. *Nathan's Run*  
Nathan is 12 and escapes from the juvenile detention center. He is on the run, and parents want to get him and kill him.

Grisham, John. *The Pelican Brief*  
A young woman reads a legal brief. No one believes her about government conspiracy. Finally, she finds believers.

Grisham, John. *The Street Lawyer*  
Successful lawyer helps people evicted from their buildings. This changes his outlook.

### **Fantasy and Science Fiction**

Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*

This chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

Asimov, Issac. *Fantastic Voyage*  
A journey through the human body: good complement to scientific study of biophysical systems.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*  
A series book about kids who are bred and schooled for war. Set in the future.

Clarke, Arthur C. *2001: A Space Odyssey*  
A 1960's view of what the year 2001 would be like in space.

Lubar, David. *Hidden Talents*

Five kids think they're going to reform school. This is actually a research facility, for the kids have unusual talents.

### **Inspiration**

Lindbergh, Anne Morrow. *Gift from the Sea*

Mrs. Lindbergh contemplates various shells as she vacations at the beach, associating different shells with past, present, and future lifestyles and choices. She leaves the beach with deeper knowledge of herself and her relationships with others.

### **Non-Fiction**

Dent, David J. *In Search of Black America: Discovering the African-American Dream*

Newly-published: The author, a professor of journalism at New York University, goes on the road to report how a range of black people are coping with America at the millennium. This book provides a modern perspective on The American Dream, a concept of crucial importance in both American Literature and American History.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Essays, First Series*

Important in American literature and American thinking, Emerson wrote oft-quoted essays "Self-Reliance," "Compensation," "Love," "Friendship," and "Art" in this book of essays. Helpful for essay writing you will do in the future and for exploring the Movement of Transcendentalism.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Essays, Second Series*

Emerson's important essays continued, including such favorites as "Character," "Gifts," and "Nature."

Jones, Steve. *Darwin's Ghost: "The Origin of Species" Updated*

Recently-published: Darwin's narrative rewritten and sometimes just repeated by a geneticist who examines the state of Darwinism in the light of scientific discovery since Darwin's time. He finds it healthy and happy. Excellent for biophysical science study and for comparison with the play *Inherit the Wind*.

Margolick, David. *Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday, Café Society, and an Early Cry for Civil Rights*.

Recently-published: The history of the anti-lynching song that became imprinted on the cultural consciousness through the performances of Billie Holiday. Great background for American history and American literature.

Nuland, Sherwin B. *The Mysteries Within: A Surgeon Reflects on Medical Myths*

Recently-published: A surgeon and scholar of medical history urbanely reviews the expansion of medical knowledge since Hippocrates, Galen, and Aristotle. His heroes are the experimental scientists of the 17th century. Excellent for biophysical science study.

Ridley, Matt. *Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*

Recently- published: A nearly jargonless expedition around the three billion characters in 23 chromosomes that carry the genetic instructions for making human beings. Good connection to biophysical systems.

Thoreau, Henry David. *Of Civil Disobedience*

Essays reflect Thoreau's interest in disobeying "senseless" laws. Often-quoted in American life.

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden*

An American classic about Thoreau's two year experiment living at Walden Pond, "away" from civilization, living simply, and dealing with life's essentials. Terrific for exploring Transcendentalism.

Thomas, Lewis. *The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher*

A classic scientific work on how a cell works when you breathe, eat, move. The notes of an optimistic scientist's view of a wide variety of subjects. Great tie-in to Biochemical Systems.

### **Biographies, Autobiographies, and Memoirs**

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West.*

Lewis and Clark brave the wilds of North America in this vivid account of exploration and adventure. Fine background for American History and for understanding backdrop against which American Literature was written.

Carson, Kit. *Kit Carson's Autobiography*

This Western hero writes of his life.

Dillard, Annie. *An American Childhood*

Annie grows up in Pittsburgh and explores, seeks a life of awareness, her eyes wide open to experience. Outstanding writing of childhood and of learning.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself*

Former slave and famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass describes the horrors of his enslavement and his eventual escape. Douglass educated himself, and promoted the Abolition of Slavery. Helpful background for both American Literature and American history.

Franklin, Benjamin. *Autobiography*

This is the often-quoted, epigraphic story of a famous American who showed the Protestant Ethic and yet had fun. Surprisingly engaging, humorous style. Helpful background for English and for history.

McKissack, Pat. *Young, Black, and Determined: Lorraine Hansberry*

The biography of Lorraine Hansberry, Black playwright who wrote the landmark play Raisin in the Sun, about an upwardly-mobile Black family in Chicago.

Robertson, James I. *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend*  
Both the genius and the failings of this confederate Civil War general are chronicled in this meticulous account of his life. Connection with American history.

Sandburg, Carl. *Abe Lincoln Grows Up*  
An award-winning biography of our heroic American President: good to connect with study of American History.

Sandburg, Carl. *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*  
Award-winning biography of Lincoln during the Civil War: good to connect with study of history.

Simpson, Brooks D. *Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph Over Adversity, 1822-1865*  
Recently-published: Simpson explores, in this first of two projected volumes, a man dogged by failure, depression, and self-doubt, until, with the coming of war, he became a national hero and savior. Great to read for connection with American History.

Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery*  
This is an autobiography of an American Black hero, who rose up from slavery and inspired others to do so as well. Helpful background for American history.

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy*  
The author tells of his troubled youth in the Jim Crow South. He hated whites and refused to be suppressed by them.

### **Health: Physical and Mental**

Burgess, Melvin. *Smack*

A story of heroin addiction

Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*  
The story of a youth's breakdown and recovery and the effect it has on his family.

Hanauer, Cathi. *My Sister's Bones*  
Girl's sister returns from college and is anorexic.

McCormick, Patricia. *Cut*  
A story of self-mutilation

Powell, Randy. *Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star*  
The boy's mother, a rock star, OD'd and died. He must deal with his mother's fans and his mentally retarded half-brother.

Wieler, Diana. *Bad Boy*  
AJ thought he knew his hockey teammate and best friend Tully well until he learned that Tully



was gay.

## **Drama**

Chase, Mary. *Harvey*

A quiet, gentle man has a six-foot tall imaginary rabbit as his friend. A humorous play, yet with wisdom about life. A Pulitzer Prize-winner.

Day, Clarence. *Life with Father*

A light-hearted look at family life in the early 1900's, when fathers ruled their families.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*

The Youngers, an African-American family headed by Lena, the grandmother, gains an insurance check for the death of Lena's husband. They live in Chicago in the 1950's. This check proves divisive because family members have different plans for spending it.

Hellman, Lillian. *The Little Foxes*.

Members of the greedy and treacherous Hubbard family compete with each other for control of the mill that will bring them riches in the post-Civil War South. Famous American play.

Lawrence, Jerome; and Lee, Robert E. *Inherit the Wind*

This is the famous play of the Scopes trial about teaching evolution or creation in school. Science teacher is on trial. Good tie-in with American History, American Literature, and Science.

O'Neill, Eugene. *Long Day's Journey into Night*

Painful autobiographical play reveals the illusions and delusions of the Tyrone family. By America's only Nobel-Prize-winning dramatist.

Shakespeare, William. *Antony and Cleopatra*

Tragedy about one of the triumvirate in Julius Caesar and the woman he loved. Outstanding for background knowledge and for understanding the psychology of the hero and the lover.

Simon, Neil. *Lost in Yonkers*

A humorous yet serious play about immigrants in New York's Yonkers and their life. Pulitzer Prize-winner.

Simon, Neil. *The Odd Couple*

This is the story of two men, foil characters, living together in Manhattan - and the humor that results from their different preferences and reactions.

Sondheim, Stephen; and Lapine, James. *Sunday in the Park with George*

Pulitzer Prize-winning play about artist George Seurat's life.

Uhry, Alfred. *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Over the years, the Southern and headstrong Miss Daisy and her black chauffeur Hoke develop a deep and abiding friendship.

## Poetry

cummings, e. e. *50 Poems*

Writing in his inimitable style, without capital letters, with words run together or with letters separated, cummings explores life in a playful style that reflects his playful content: much about childhood, such as "in just-spring".

Frost, Robert. *Collected Poems*

Beautifully constructed poems of nature and of man living in nature are characteristic of Robert Frost, who wrote of his beloved New England. A favorite: "The Road Not Taken." A Pulitzer Prize winning writer and American Poet Laureate during the Kennedy administration.

Hughes, Langston. *Lament for Dark People and Other Poems*

Poems of the Negro during the Harlem Renaissance: conflicts, struggles, successes. His "A Raisin in the Sun" became a play by that name.

Masters, Edgar Lee. *Spoon River Anthology*

A favorite collection of poems, each told by a dead former resident of Spoon River and revealing his/ her life.

Robinson, Edward Arlington. *Collected Poems*

A writer of poems about people in his Midwestern town, Robinson is known for such favorite character studies as "Richard Cory," "Minniver Cheevy," and "Lucinda Matlock."

Sandburg, Carl. *Complete Poems*

The prairie poet and biographer of Lincoln wrote energetically about Chicago, using free verse.

Wheatley, Phillis. *Poems on Various Subjects*

Wheatley, who lived during the American Colonial Period and George Washington's administration, is the first black poet in America, who studied in England when her owner was traveling there. She is famous for an ode she wrote to George Washington.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*

This book of poetry is a national favorite. This celebrates all aspects of American people and life. Free verse.

**Travel** Steinbeck, John. *Travels with Charlie*

Steinbeck travels America by car with his dog in the 1960's looking for the American Character.