

National Endowment for the Humanities: Summer Favorites Reading List

While this reading list of recommended children's and young adult books for summer reading is not annotated, it contains the titles of a great many excellent books. The booklist "represents NEH's long-standing effort to highlight classic literature for young people from kindergarten through high school." The booklist is divided by grade level: Kindergarten to Grade 3, Grades 4 to 6, Grades 7 to 8, and Grades 9 to 12.

Grades 4 to 6

Alexander, Lloyd. *Chronicles of Prydain*.
Andersen, Hans Christian. *Fairy Tales*.
Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*.
Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.
Boston, L.M. *The Children of Green Knowe*.
Brink, Carol Ryrie. *Caddie Woodlawn*.
Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Bronzeville Boys and Girls*.
Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*.
Byars, Betsy. *The Summer of the Swans*.
Cooper, Susan. *The Dark is Rising Sequence*.
Dodge, Mary Mapes. *Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates*.
Eager, Edward. *Half Magic*.
Edmonds, Walter D. *The Matchlock Gun*.
Enright, Elizabeth. *Thimble Summer*.
Estes, Eleanor. *The Moffats*.
Farley, Walter. *The Black Stallion*.
Field, Rachel. *Hitty: Her First Hundred Years*.
Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*.
George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*.
Grahame, Kenneth. *The Wind in the Willows*.
Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales (Hänsel and Gretel, Rapunzel, etc.)*.
Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*.
Henry, Marguerite. *Misty of Chincoteague*.
Howe, Deborah. *Bunnica*.
Hughes, Langston. *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*.
Irving, Washington. *Rip Van Winkle*.
Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth*.
Kipling, Rudyard. *The Jungle Book*.
Knight, Eric. *Lassie Come Home*.
Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.
Lamb, Charles and Mary. *Tales from Shakespeare*.
Lawson, Robert. *Ben and Me*.
Lanski, Lois. *Strawberry Girl*.
Lester, Julius. *To Be a Slave*.

Lewis, C.S. *The Complete Chronicles of Narnia*.
Lindgren, Astrid. *Pippi Longstocking*.
Lofting, Hugh. *Doctor Dolittle*.
Lovelace, Maud Hart. *Betsy-Tacy*.
Macaulay, David. *Castle*.
MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah Plain and Tall*.
McCloskey, Robert. *Homer Price*.
Merrill, Jean. *The Pushcart War*.
Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*.
Nesbit, E. *The Railway Children*.
North, Sterling. *Rascal*.
Norton, Mary. *The Borrowers*.
O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh*.
Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*.
Pearce, Philippa. *Tom's Midnight Garden*.
Perrault, Charles. *The Complete Fairy Tales (Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, etc.)*.
Sawyer, Ruth. *Roller Skates*.
Sewell, Anna. *Black Beauty*.
Sharp, Margery. *The Rescuers*.
Spyri, Johanna. *Heidi*.
Travers, P. L. *Mary Poppins*.
Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House on the Prairie*.
Wyss, Johann David. *Swiss Family Robinson*.

Grades 7 to 8

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*.
Bagnold, Enid. *National Velvet*.
Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*.
Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
Christopher, John. *The White Mountains*.
Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans*.
Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*.
Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*.
Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.
Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo*.
Eckert, Allan W. *Incident At Hawk's Hill*.
Engdahl, Sylvia Louise. *Enchantress From the Stars*.
Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*.
Forester, C.S. *The Horatio Hornblower Series*.
Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl*.
Frost, Robert. *Poems*.
George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*.

Hautzig, Esther. *The Endless Steppe*.
Hilton, James. *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*.
Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*.
Hugo, Victor. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.
Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*.
Hunter, Mollie. *A Stranger Came Ashore*.
Irving, Washington. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.
Keith, Harold. *Rifles for Watie*.
Keller, Helen. *Story of My Life*.
Kipling, Rudyard. *Kim*.
LeGuin, Ursula K. *A Wizard of Earthsea*.
L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*.
London, Jack. *Call of the Wild*.
Malory, Sir Thomas. *Le Morte d'Arthur*.
Mazer, Harry. *The Last Mission*.
McCaffrey, Anne. *Dragonsong*.
O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.
O'Hara, Mary. *My Friend Flicka*.
Paterson, Katherine. *Jacob Have I Loved*.
Peck, Richard. *The Ghost Belonged To Me*.
Peck, Robert Newton. *A Day No Pigs Would Die*.
Pyle, Howard. *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*.
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. *The Yearling*.
Rawls, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*.
Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room*.
Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de. *The Little Prince*.
Schaefer, Jack. *Shane*.
Scott, Sir Walter. *Ivanhoe*.
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*.
Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.
Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.
Sperry, Armstrong. *Call It Courage*.
Steinbeck, John. *The Red Pony*.
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*.
Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*.
Twain, Mark. *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
Uchida, Yoshiko. *Journey to Topaz*.
Verne, Jules. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.
Webster, Jean. *Daddy-Long-Legs*.
Wells, H.G. *War of the Worlds*.
Wilder, Thornton. *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.
Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings*.
Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman*.

Grades 9 to 12

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.
Agee, James. *A Death in the Family*.
Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
Anonymous. *Beowulf*.
Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*.
Baldwin, James. *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.
The Bible.
Bolt, Robert. *A Man for All Seasons*.
Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*.
Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*.
Buck, Pearl. *The Good Earth*.
Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*.
Cather, Willa. *My Ántonia*.
Cervantes, Miguel de. *Don Quixote*.
Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*.
Chekhov, Anton. *The Cherry Orchard*.
Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone*.
Conrad, Joseph. *Lord Jim*.
Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*.
Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*.
Dante. *The Divine Comedy*.
Defoe, Daniel. *Moll Flanders*.
Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*.
Dickinson, Emily. Poems.
Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment*.
Dreiser, Theodore. *An American Tragedy*.
Eliot, George. *Silas Marner*.
Eliot, T.S. *Murder in the Cathedral*.
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*.
Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Essays*.
Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*.
Fielding, Henry. *Tom Jones*.
Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*.
Flaubert, Gustave. *Madame Bovary*.
Forster, E.M. *A Passage to India*.
Franklin, Benjamin. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.
Galsworthy, John. *The Forsyte Saga*.
Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*.
Graves, Robert. *I, Claudius*.
Greene, Graham. *The Power and the Glory*.
Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*.
Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.
Henry, O. *Stories* ("The Gift of the Magi," "The Ransom of Red Chief," etc.).

Hesse, Hermann. *Steppenwolf*.
Homer. *The Iliad*.
---. *The Odyssey*.
Hughes, Langston. *Poems*.
Hugo, Victor. *Les Misérables*.
Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.
Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*.
Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*.
James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw*.
Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.
Kafka, Franz. *The Trial*.
Keats, John. *Poems*.
Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage*.
Koestler, Arthur. *Darkness at Noon*.
Lawrence, D.H. *Sons and Lovers*.
Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee. *Inherit the Wind*.
Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
Lewis, Sinclair. *Babbitt*.
Llewellyn, Richard. *How Green Was My Valley*.
Mann, Thomas. *The Magic Mountain*.
Marlowe, Christopher. *Dr. Faustus*.
Maugham, W. Somerset. *Of Human Bondage*.
McCullers, Carson. *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*.
Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick*.
Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*.
Monsarrat, Nicholas. *The Cruel Sea*.
O'Connor, Flannery. *Wise Blood*.
O'Neill, Eugene. *Long Day's Journey into Night*.
Orwell, George. *1984*.
---. *Animal Farm*.
Pasternak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago*.
Poe, Edgar Allan. Short stories.
Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*.
Rand, Ayn. *The Fountainhead*.
Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*.
Rostand, Edmond. *Cyrano de Bergerac*.
Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*.
Sandburg, Carl. *Abraham Lincoln*.
Sayers, Dorothy L. *The Nine Tailors*.
Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*.
---. *King Lear*.
---. *Much Ado About Nothing*.
---. *Sonnets*.
Shaw, George Bernard. *Pygmalion*.
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley. *The School for Scandal*.
Shute, Nevil. *A Town Like Alice*.

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*.
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.
Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex*.
Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*.
Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*.
Thackeray, William Makepeace. *Vanity Fair*.
Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden*.
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings*.
Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina*.
Trollope, Anthony. *Barchester Towers*.
Turgenev, Ivan. *Fathers and Sons*.
Twain, Mark. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
Updike, John. *Rabbit, Run*.
Valladares, Armando. *Against All Hope*.
Virgil. *The Aeneid*.
Voltaire. *Candide*.
Warren, Robert Penn. *All the King's Men*.
Waugh, Evelyn. *A Handful of Dust*.
Welty, Eudora. *Collected Short Stories*.
Wharton, Edith. *The Age of Innocence*.
White, T.H. *The Once and Future King*.
Wiesel, Elie. *Night*.
Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
Wilder, Thornton. *Our Town*.
Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
Wolfe, Thomas. *Look Homeward, Angel*.
Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*.
Wouk, Herman. *The Caine Mutiny*.
Wright, Richard. *Native Son*.