

Classics: Timeless Titles for Teens

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen (YA AUSTEN)

In 19th-century England, spirited Elizabeth copes with an unwanted suitor, Mr. Darcy, as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

Fahrenheit 451

Ray Bradbury (YA BRADBURY)

A totalitarian regime has ordered all the books to be destroyed, but one of the "firemen" suddenly realizes their merit.

Jane Eyre

Charlotte Bronte (YA BRONTE)

A Victorian governess's love for her mysterious employer is threatened by his tragic secrets.

The Good Earth

Pearl S. Buck (YA BUCK)

Wang Lung, a simple farmer, grows rich with the help of his faithful wife. But tragedy strikes when he betrays his family and neglects the earth he has worshipped.

Don Quixote

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra
(FIC CERVANTES)

The adventures of an eccentric (and possibly crazy) Spanish gentleman, who sets out as a knight of old to right wrongs and punish evil.

The Red Badge of Courage

Stephen Crane (YA CRANE)

During the Civil War, a young Union soldier must wrestle with his conflicting emotions about war.

Robinson Crusoe

Daniel Defoe (YA DEFOE)

In the 1600s, an adventuring Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

Great Expectations

Charles Dickens (YA DICKENS)

A young orphan, Pip, receives a fortune from a mysterious benefactor and travels to London in order to become "a gentleman."

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (YA DOYLE)

In his consulting room on Baker Street, the master sleuth unravels his client's baffling and unorthodox puzzles.

The Count of Monte Cristo

Alexandre Dumas (YA DUMAS)

Sent to prison on a false accusation, Edmond Dantes escapes many years later and finds a treasure which he uses to exact his revenge.

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald (YA FITZGERALD)

A young man newly rich tries to recapture the past and win back his former love, despite the fact that she has married.

One Hundred Years of Solitude

Gabriel Garcia Marquez (YA GARCIA)

This novel chronicles the irreconcilable conflict in the Buendia family between the desire for solitude and the need for love.

Lord of the Flies

William Golding (YA GOLDING)

Thirty English schoolboys are stranded on an uninhabited island... but with no adults or rules present, their society turns violent.

The Scarlet Letter

Nathaniel Hawthorne (YA HAWTHORNE)

In colonial Massachusetts, a young woman endures the consequences of her adultery and spends the rest of her life in atonement.

The Old Man and the Sea

Ernest Hemingway (YA HEMINGWAY)

Santiago, a Cuban fisherman who encounters a giant marlin in the Gulf Stream, battles for his catch and his survival against a band of marauding sharks.

The Outsiders

S.E. Hinton (YA HINTON)

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' deaths, trying to find identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley (YA HUXLEY)

Six hundred years into the future, humans are bred by cloning and "mother" and "father" are forbidden words.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Ken Kesey (YA KESEY)

Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over.

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee (YA LEE)

Scout is thrust into a world of racial bigotry and hatred when her lawyer father defends a black man unjustly accused of raping a white girl.

Call of the Wild

Jack London (YA LONDON)

Buck, a loyal family pet, is cruelly forced to go into the Klondike gold rush, where he eventually becomes the leader of a ferocious wolf pack.

Moby Dick

Herman Melville (YA MELVILLE)

Consumed by an insane rage, Captain Ahab has but one purpose in life — revenge on the great white whale who maimed and disfigured him.

Animal Farm

George Orwell (YA ORWELL)

A group of farm animals revolt, only to be betrayed into worse servitude by their leaders, the pigs!

1984

George Orwell (YA ORWELL)

A chilling portrait of a totalitarian society under the ever-watchful gaze of Big Brother—where love, individuality and privacy are banned.

Catcher in the Rye

J. D. Salinger (YA SALINGER)

In an effort to escape the hypocrisy at his boarding school, 16-year-old Holden Caulfield seeks refuge in NY City.

Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare (YA SHAKESPEARE)

A pair of young lovers are destroyed by the hatred of their rival families in what is perhaps the greatest tragic love story of all time.

Frankenstein

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (YA SHELLEY)

A monster, assembled by a scientist from parts of dead bodies, develops a mind of his own as he learns to loathe himself and hate his creator.

Of Mice and Men

John Steinbeck (YA STEINBECK)

Two friends face a world marked by tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Robert Louis Stevenson (YA STEVENSON)

A kind and respected doctor is transformed into a murderous madman when he tests a secret drug of his own creation.

Dracula

Bram Stoker (YA STOKER)

When the true identity of a wealthy Transylvanian nobleman, Count Dracula, is uncovered, his discoverers know he must be destroyed.

The Hobbit

J.R.R. Tolkien (YA TOLKIEN)

Chronicles the adventures Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit who brought home the Ring of Power.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain (YA TWAIN)

The adventures of a young boy and a runaway slave as they travel down the Mississippi river together on a raft.

Around the World in 80 Days

Jules Verne (YA VERNE)

An eccentric Englishman accepts a wager to circle the globe in 80 days. Adventure, entertainment and suspense ensue.

Slaughterhouse Five

Kurt Vonnegut (YA VONNEGUT)

Billy Pilgrim returns from WWII only to be kidnapped by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore, who teach him that time is an eternal present.

The Time Machine

H. G. Wells (YA WELLS)

A scientist travels to the future, where he discovers a changed world inhabited by two unusual races, the Eloi and the Morlocks.

A Room of One's Own

Virginia Woolf (YA WOLF)

Why is it that men, and not women, have always had power, wealth, and fame? Woolf cites the two keys to freedom: fixed income and one's own room.