Agee, James

A Death in the Family

Story of loss and heartbreak felt when a young father dies.

Anderson, Sherwood

Vinesburg, Ohio

A collection of short stories lays bare the life of a small town in the Midwest.

3aldwin, James

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Semi-autobiographical novel about a 14-year-old black youth's religious conversion.

Bellamy, Edward

Looking Backward: 2000-1887

Written in 1887 about a young man who travels in time to a utopian year 2000, where economic security and a healthy mor invironment have reduced crime.

Bellow, Saul

Seize the Day

A son grapples with his love and hate for an unworthy father.

3radbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451

Reading is a crime and firemen burn books in this futuristic society.

Cather, Willa

My Antonia

mmigrant pioneers strive to adapt to the Nebraska prairies.

Chopin, Kate

The Awakening

The story of a New Orleans woman who abandons her husband and children to search for love and self-understanding.

Clark, Walter Van Tilburg

The Ox-Bow Incident

When a group of citizens discovers one of their members has been murdered by cattle rustlers, they form an illegal posse, sursue the murderers, and lynch them.

Cormier, Robert

The Chocolate War

erry Renault challenges the power structure of his school when he refuses to sell chocolates for the annual fundraiser.

Crane, Stephen

The Red Badge of Courage

During the Civil War, Henry Fleming joins the army full of romantic visions of battle which are shattered by combat.

Jorris, Michael

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water

Three generations of Native American women recount their searches for identity and love.

Ellison, Ralph

nvisible Man

A black man's search for himself as an individual and as a member of his race and his society.

⁷aulkner, William

As I Lay Dying

The Bundren family takes the ripening corpse of Addie, wife and mother, on a gruesomely comic journey.

Gaines, Ernest

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

n her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from slavery to the civil rights movement.

Hawthorne. Nathaniel

The Scarlet Letter

An adulterous Puritan woman keeps secret the identity of the father of her illegitimate child.

Heller, Joseph

Catch-22

A broad comedy about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing missions.

Hemingway, Ernest

A Farewell to Arms

During World War I, an American lieutenant runs away with the woman who nurses him back to health.

Cesey, Ken

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

A novel about a power struggle between the head nurse and one of the male patients in a mental institution.

Lewis, Sinclair

Main Street

A young doctor's wife tries to change the ugliness, dullness and ignorance which prevail in Gopher Prairie, Minn.

London, Jack

Call of the Wild

Buck is a loyal pet dog until cruel men make him a pawn in their search for Klondike gold.

McCullers, Carson

The Member of the Wedding

A young southern girl is determined to be the third party on a honeymoon, despite all the advice against it from friends and family.

Melville, Herman

Moby-Dick

A complex novel about a mad sea captain's pursuit of the White Whale.

Morrison, Toni

Sula

The lifelong friendship of two women becomes strained when one causes the other's husband to abandon her.

D'Connor, Flannery

A Good Man is Hard to Find

Social awareness, the grotesque, and the need for faith characterize these stories of the contemporary South.

'arks, Gordon

The Learning Tree

A fictional study of a black family in a small Kansas town in the 1920s.

'lath, Sylvia

The Bell Jar

The heartbreaking story of a talented young woman's descent into madness.

'oe, Edgar Allan

Great Tales and Poems

'oe is considered the father of detective stories and a master of supernatural tales.

'otok, Chaim

The Chosen

riendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds and beliefs.

Salinger, J.D.

The Catcher in the Rve

A prep school dropout rejects the "phoniness" he sees all about him.

Sinclair, Upton

The Jungle

The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this turn-of-the-century novel.

Steinbeck, John

The Grapes of Wrath

The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the Depression.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

Jncle Tom's Cabin

The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system.

Γan, Amy

The Joy Luck Club

After her mother's death, a young Chinese-American woman learns of her mother's tragic early life in China.

Swain, Mark

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Tuck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom.

Jonnegut, Kurt

Slaughterhouse-Five

3illy Pilgrim, an optometrist from Ilium, New York, shuttles between World War II Dresden and a luxurious zoo on the planet Tralfamadore.

Walker, Alice

The Color Purple

A young woman sees herself as property until another woman teaches her to value herself.

Velty, Eudora

Chirteen Stories

A collection of short stories about people and life in the deep South.

Volfe, Thomas

Look Homeward, Angel

A novel depicting the coming of age of Eugene Gant and his passion to experience life.

Vright, Richard

Native Son

Bigger Thomas, a young man from the Chicago slums, lashes out against a hostile society by committing two murders.

Achebe, Chinua

Things Fall Apart

Dkonkwo, a proud village leader, is driven to murder and suicide by European changes to his traditional Ibo society.

Austen, Jane

Pride and Prejudice

Love and marriage among the English country gentry of Austen's day.

3alzac, Honore de

Pere Goriot

A father is reduced to poverty after giving money to his daughters.

3ronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre

An intelligent and passionate governess falls in love with a strange, moody man tormented by dark secrets.

3ronte, Emily

Nuthering Heights

One of the masterpieces of English romanticism, this is a novel of Heathcliff and Catherine, love and revenge.

Camus, Albert

The Stranger

A man who is virtually unknown to both himself and others commits a pointless murder for which he has no explanation.

Carroll, Lewis

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

A fantasy in which Alice follows the White Rabbit to a dream world.

Cervantes, Miguel de

Jon Quixote

An eccentric old gentleman sets out as a knight "tilting at windmills" to right the wrongs of the world.

Defoe, Daniel

Robinson Crusoe

The adventures of a man who spends 24 years on an isolated island.

Dickens, Charles

Great Expectations

The moving story of the rise, fall, and rise again of a humbly-born young orphan.

Jostoevski, Feodor

Crime and Punishment

A psychological novel about a poor student who murders an old woman pawnbroker and her sister.

Eliot, George

The Mill on the Floss

Maggie is miserable because her brother disapproves of her choices of romances.

Esquivel, Laura

Like Water for Chocolate

As the youngest of three daughters in a turn-of-the-century Mexican family, Tita may not marry but must remain at home o care for her mother

Flaubert, Gustave

Madame Bovary

n her extramarital affairs, a bored young wife seeks unsuccessfully to find the emotional experiences she craves.

Forster, E.M.

A Passage to India

A young English woman in British-ruled India accuses an Indian doctor of sexual assault.

⁷uentes, Carlos

The Death of Artemio Cruz

A powerful Mexican newspaper publisher recalls his life as he lies dying at age 71.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel

Dne Hundred Years of Solitude

A technique called magical realism is used in this portrait of seven generations in the lives of the Buendia family.

Gogol, Nikolai

The Overcoat

Russian tales of good and evil.

Golding, William

Lord of the Flies

English schoolboys marooned on an uninhabited island test the values of civilization when they attempt to set up a society of their own.

Grass, Gunter

The Tin Drum

Oskar describes the amoral conditions through which he has lived in Germany, both during and after the Hitler regime.

Hardy, Thomas

Tess of the D'Urbervilles

The happiness of Tess and her husband is destroyed when she confesses that she bore a child as the result of a forced sexua elationship with her employer's son.

Hesse, Hermann

Siddhartha

Emerging from a kaleidoscope of experiences and pleasures, a young Brahmin ascends to a state of peace and mystic soliness.

Huxley, Aldous

3rave New World

A bitter satire of the future, in which the world is controlled by advances in science and social changes.

oyce, James

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

A novel about a young man growing up in Ireland and rebelling against family, country, and religion.

Cafka, Franz

The Trial

A man is tried for a crime he knows nothing about, yet for which he feels guilt.

Lawrence, D.H.

Sons and Lovers

An autobiographical novel about a youth torn between a dominant working-class father and a possessive genteel mother.

Mann, Thomas

Death in Venice

n this novella, an author becomes aware of a darker side of himself when he visits Venice.

Drwell, George

Animal Farm

Animals turn the tables on their masters.

'asternak, Boris

Joctor Zhivago

An epic novel of Russia before and after the Bolshevik revolution.

Paton, Alan

Cry, the Beloved Country

A country Zulu pastor searches for his sick sister in Johannesburg, and discovers that she has become a prostitute and his on a murderer.

Remarque, Erich Maria

All Quiet on the Western Front

A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death.

Scott, Sir Walter

vanhoe

Tale of Ivanhoe, the disinherited knight, Lady Rowena, Richard the Lion-Hearted, and Robin Hood at the time of the Crusades.

Shelley, Mary W.

Frankenstein

A gothic tale of terror in which Franken-stein creates a monster from corpses.

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander

Dne Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

van Denisovich Shukhov endures one more day in a Siberian prison camp and finds joy in survival.

Swift, Jonathan

Gulliver's Travels

Julliver encounters dwarfs and giants and has other strange adventures when his ship is wrecked in distant lands.

Folstoy, Leo

Anna Karenina

Anna forsakes her husband for the dashing Count Vronsky and brief happiness.

Weisel, Elie

Night

A searing account of the Holocaust as experienced by a 15-year-old boy.

Wells, H.G.

The Time Machine

A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.

3recht, Bertolt

Mother Courage and Her Children

A product of the Nazi era, Mother Courage is a feminine "Everyman" in a play on the futility of war.

Chekhov, Anton

The Cherry Orchard

The orchard evokes different meanings for the impoverished aristocrat and the merchant who buys it.