

# TIMELESS CLASSICS

An old Chinese proverb says, "A book is like a garden in the pocket." Many of us who have valued reading in our early years derive

enjoyment from reading to our children, and now, as I do, to our grandchildren. Books are voyages of discovery and transforming instruments to all of us.

A few years ago, the National Endowment for the Humanities asked schools around the country to send reading lists of their favorite

books. Noticing how often books that other generations have enjoyed

appear on these lists, we decided to make this compilation of tried and true titles. The works herein, published in 1960 or earlier, have

delighted generations of readers.

Some have asked, "Is the book dead?" as we move into new computer

technologies. Not at all. Print text will co-exist with these new

mediums.

As concerned parents, educators, and counselors, we must continue to emphasize the importance of access to good reading in order to shape our students' learning process, enhance their understanding of American

heritage, and open up a new world of self-fulfillment. As Aldous Huxley

said, "The proper study of mankind is books."

There are some excellent older books that are missing from the list,

because they appeared too infrequently in the school selections: Kate

Douglas Wiggin's *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*, for example; Dylan Thomas's

*A Child's Christmas in Wales*; Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Despite the absences, we hope this compilation

will nevertheless bring hours of pleasure and enlightenment.

The titles presented for suggested extracurricular reading provide a solid foundation and hours of enjoyment for students and scholars of all ages.

We at NEH hope that the "Timeless Classics" booklist will continue

to be a rich source of material for everyone.

Sheldon Hackney  
Chairman

"Books are humanity in print" ...Barbara Tuchman

"Literature is an investment of genius which pays dividends to all subsequent times." ...John Burroughs

"All that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books." ...Thomas Carlyle

### Kindergarten through Grade 6 ###

Adamson, Joy  
Born Free

Aesop  
Fables\*

Alcott, Louisa May  
Little Women

Andersen, Hans Christian  
Fairy tales

Atwater, Richard and Florence  
Mr. Popper's Penguins\*

Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin  
Miss Hickory

Recommended for K-3, either for reading by children or for reading to them.

Barrie, J.M.  
Peter Pan

Baum, L. Frank  
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Bemelmans, Ludwig  
Madeline series\*

Bond, Michael  
A Bear Called Paddington

Boston, L.M.  
The Children of Green Knowe

Brink, Carol Ryrie

Caddie Woodlawn

Brown, Margaret Wise  
Goodnight, Moon\*

Brunhoff, Jean de  
The Story of Babar\*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson  
The Secret Garden

Burton, Virginia Lee  
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel\*

Butterworth, Oliver  
The Enormous Egg

Clark, Ann Nolan  
Secret of the Andes

Cleary, Beverly  
Henry Huggins series

Coatsworth, Elizabeth  
The Cat Who Went to Heaven

Dalgliesh, Alice  
The Bears on Hemlock Mountain\*  
The Courage of Sarah Noble\*

De Angeli, Marguerite  
The Door in the Wall

De Jong, Meindert  
The House of Sixty Fathers  
The Wheel on the School

Dodge, Mary Mapes  
Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates

Du Bois, William Pene  
The Twenty-One Balloons

Edmonds, Walter D.  
The Matchlock Gun

Estes, Eleanor  
Ginger Pye  
Moffats series

Farley, Walter

The Black Stallion

Field, Rachel  
Hitty, Her First Hundred Years

Fritz, Jean  
The Cabin Faced West

Gilbreth, Frank B. and  
Ernestine G. Carey  
Cheaper By the Dozen

Gipson, Fred  
Old Yeller

Godden, Rumer  
The Mousewife\*

Grahame, Kenneth  
The Reluctant Dragon\*  
The Wind in the Willows f

Gray, Elizabeth Janet  
Adam of the Road

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm  
Grimm's Fairy Tales

Hawes, Charles  
The Dark Frigate

Haywood, Carolyn  
Betsy series\*

Henry, Marguerite  
King of the Wind  
Misty of Chincoteague

Keith, Harold  
Rifles for Watie

Kelly, Eric  
The Trumpeter of Krakow

Kipling, Rudyard  
Captains Courageous  
Just So Stories for  
Little Children\*  
The Jungle Books

Kjelgaard, Jim

Big Red

Knight, Eric  
Lassie Come Home

Krumgold, Joseph  
...and Now Miguel  
Onion John

LaFarge, Oliver  
Laughing Boy

Lamb, Charles and Mary  
Tales from Shakespear

Latham, Jean Lee  
Carry on, Mr. Bowditch

Lawson, Robert  
Ben & Me  
Rabbit Hill

Leaf, Munro  
The Story of Ferdinand\*

Lear, Edward  
Book of Nonsense\*

Lenski, Lois  
Strawberry Girl

Lewis, C.S.  
Chronicles of Narnia series

Lindgren, Astrid  
Pippi Longstocking series

Lofting, Hugh  
Doctor Doolittle series

London, Jack  
The Call of the Wild  
White Fang

MacDonald, Betty  
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle\*

MacGregor, Ellen  
Miss Pickerell series

McCloskey, Robert

Blueberries for Sal\*  
Homer Price  
Make Way for Ducklings\*

McSwigan, Marie  
Snow Treasure

Meigs, Cornelia  
Invincible Louisa

Milne, A.A.  
The House at Pooh Corner\*  
Now We Are Six\*  
When We Were Very Young\*  
Winnie-the-Pooh\*

Minarik, Else Holmelund  
Little Bear

Montgomery, L.M.  
Anne of Green Gables

Mukerji, Dhan Ghopal  
Gay-Neck, the Story of a Pigeon

Norton, Mary  
The Borrowers series

O'Hara, Mary  
My Friend Flicka

Pearce, Philippa  
Tom's Midnight Garden

Perrault, Charles  
Cinderella\*

Potter, Beatrix  
The Tale of Peter Rabbit\*

Pyle, Howard  
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood

Rey, H.A.  
Curious George series\*

Richter, Conrad  
The Light in the Forest

Selden, George  
The Cricket in Times Square\*

Seuss, Dr.  
The Cat in the Hat\*

Sewell, Anna  
Black Beauty

Sorenson, Virginia  
Miracles on Maple Hill

Speare, Elizabeth George  
The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Sperry, Armstrong  
Call It Courage

Spyri, Johanna  
Heidi

Steinbeck, John  
The Red Pony

Stevenson, Robert Louis  
A Child's Garden of Verses\*  
Kidnapped  
Treasure Island

Travers, Pamela L.  
Mary Poppins series

Van Loon, Hendrik  
The Story of Mankind

White, E.B.  
Charlotte's Web  
Stuart Little

Wilder, Laura Ingalls  
Little House series

Williams, Margery  
The Velveteen Rabbit\*

Wyss, Johann  
Swiss Family Robinson

Zion, Gene  
Harry the Dirty Dog\*

### Grades 7 and 8 ###

Alcott, Louisa May  
Little Men

Bagnold, Enid  
National Velvet

Blackmore, Richard D.  
Lorna Doone

Boulle, Pierre  
The Bridge over the River Kwai

Bradbury, Ray  
Dandelion Wine  
Fahrenheit 451  
The Illustrated Man  
Martian Chronicles

Buchan, John  
The Thirty-Nine Steps

Bunyan, John  
The Pilgrim's Progress

Carroll, Lewis  
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland  
Through the Looking Glass

Clark, Walter  
The Ox-Bow Incident

Cooper, James Fenimore  
The Deerslayer  
The Last of the Mohicans

Curie, Eve  
Madame Curie: A Biography

Dana, Richard Henry  
Two Years before the Mast

Day, Clarence  
Life with Father

Defoe, Daniel  
Robinson Crusoe

Dickens, Charles  
A Christmas Carol

Douglas, Lloyd C.

The Robe

Doyle, Arthur Conan  
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Dumas, Alexander  
The Count of Monte Christo  
The Three Musketeers

Du Maurier, Daphne  
Rebecca

Edmonds, Walter D.  
Drums along the Mohawk

Ferber, Edna  
Cimarron

Forbes, Esther  
Johnny Tremain

Forester, C.S.  
The African Queen  
The Hornblower series

Frank, Anne  
Diary of a Young Girl

Frost, Robert  
Poems

Gallico, Paul  
The Snow Goose

Gunther, John  
Death Be Not Proud

Guthrie, A.B.  
The Big Sky

Haggard, H. Rider  
King Solomon's Mines

Hansberry, Lorraine  
Raisin in the Sun

Hemingway, Ernest  
The Old Man and the Sea

Hersey, John  
A Bell for Adano

Hiroshima  
The Wall

Heyerdahl, Thor  
Kon-Tiki

Hilton, James  
Goodbye, Mr. Chips  
Lost Horizon

Hudson, W.H.  
Green Mansions

Hughes, Richard  
A High Wind in Jamaica

Hugo, Victor  
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Irving, Washington  
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Keller, Helen  
Story of My Life

Kennedy, John F.  
Profiles in Courage

Kipling, Rudyard  
Kim

Knowles, John  
A Separate Peace

Lee, Harper  
To Kill a Mockingbird

London, Jack  
The Sea Wolf

Lord, Walter  
A Night to Remember

Malory, Sir Thomas  
Le Morte d'Arthur

Maxwell, Gavin  
Ring of Bright Water

McCullers, Carson  
Member of the Wedding

Michener, James  
The Bridges at Toko-Ri

Mitchell, Margaret  
Gone with the Wind

Nordhoff, Charles and J.N. Hall  
Mutiny on the Bounty

O'Dell, Scott  
Island of the Blue Dolphins

Orczy, Baroness Emma  
The Scarlet Pimpernel

Paton, Alan  
Cry, the Beloved Country

Pyle, Howard  
Men of Iron

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan  
The Yearling

Renault, Mary  
The King Must Die

Roberts, Kenneth  
Northwest Passage

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de  
The Little Prince  
Wind, Sand and Stars

Saki  
Stories

Schaefer, Jack  
Shane

Scott, Sir Walter  
Ivanhoe

Shelley, Mary  
Frankenstein

Smith, Betty  
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Steinbeck, John

The Pearl  
Tortilla Flat

Stevenson, Robert Louis  
The Black Arrow  
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll  
and Mr. Hyde

Stoker, Bram  
Dracula

Thurber, James  
The Thurber Carnival

Tolkien, J.R.R.  
The Hobbit  
The Lord of the Rings

Twain, Mark  
The Adventures of  
Huckleberry Finn  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer  
A Connecticut Yankee in  
King Arthur's Court  
Innocents Abroad  
Life on the Mississippi  
The Prince and the Pauper

Verne, Jules  
Around the World in Eighty Days  
Journey to the Center of the Earth  
Mysterious Island  
20,000 Leagues under the Sea

Wallace, Lewis  
Ben-Hur

Washington, Booker T.  
Up from Slavery

Wells, H.G.  
The Time Machine  
War of the Worlds

Wharton, Edith  
Ethan Frome

Wilder, Thornton  
The Bridge of San Luis Rey

Wister, Owen

The Virginian

Yates, Elizabeth  
Amos Fortune, Free Man

### Grades 9 through 12 ###

Agee, James  
A Death in the Family

Anderson, Sherwood  
Winesburg, Ohio

Austen, Jane  
Emma  
Northanger Abbey  
Pride and Prejudice  
Sense and Sensibility

Baldwin, James  
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Balzac, Honore de  
Pere Goriot

Beckett, Samuel  
Waiting for Godot

The Bible  
Old Testament  
New Testament

Bolt, Robert  
A Man for All Seasons

Bronte, Charlotte  
Jane Eyre

Bronte, Emily  
Wuthering Heights

Browning, Robert  
Poems

Buck, Pearl  
The Good Earth

Butler, Samuel  
The Way of All Flesh

Camus, Albert

The Plague  
The Stranger

Cather, Willa  
Death Comes for the Archbishop  
My Antonia

Cervantes, Miguel  
Don Quixote

Chaucer, Geoffrey  
The Canterbury Tales

Chekhov, Anton  
The Cherry Orchard

Chopin, Kate  
The Awakening

Collins, Wilkie  
The Moonstone

Conrad, Joseph  
Heart of Darkness  
Lord Jim  
The Secret Sharer  
Victory

Crane, Stephen  
The Red Badge of Courage

Dante  
The Divine Comedy

Defoe, Daniel  
Moll Flanders

Dickens, Charles  
Bleak House  
David Copperfield  
Great Expectations  
Hard Times  
Oliver Twist  
A Tale of Two Cities

Dickinson, Emily  
Poems

Dinesen, Isak  
Out of Africa

Dostoevski, Fyodor  
Brothers Karamazov  
Crime and Punishment

Dreiser, Theodore  
An American Tragedy  
Sister Carrie

Eliot, George  
Adam Bede  
Middlemarch  
Mill on the Floss  
Silas Marner

Eliot, T.S.  
Murder in the Cathedral

Ellison, Ralph  
Invisible Man

Emerson, Ralph Waldo  
Essays

Faulkner, William  
Absalom, Absalom!  
As I Lay Dying  
Intruder in the Dust  
Light in August  
The Sound and the Fury

Fielding, Henry  
Joseph Andrews  
Tom Jones

Fitzgerald, F. Scott  
The Great Gatsby  
Tender Is the Night

Flaubert, Gustave  
Madame Bovary

Forster, E.M.  
A Passage to India  
A Room with a View

Franklin, Benjamin  
The Autobiography of  
Benjamin Franklin

Galsworthy, John  
The Forsyte Saga

Golding, William  
Lord of the Flies

Goldsmith, Oliver  
She Stoops to Conquer

Graves, Robert  
I, Claudius

Greene, Graham  
The Heart of the Matter  
The Power and the Glory

Hamilton, Edith  
Mythology

Hardy, Thomas  
Far From the Madding Crowd  
Jude the Obscure  
The Mayor of Casterbridge  
The Return of the Native  
Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Hawthorne, Nathaniel  
The House of the Seven Gables  
The Scarlet Letter

Hemingway, Ernest  
A Farewell to Arms  
For Whom the Bell Tolls  
The Sun Also Rises

Henry, O.  
Stories

Hersey, John  
A Single Pebble

Hesse, Hermann  
Demian  
Siddhartha  
Steppenwolf

Homer  
The Iliad  
The Odyssey

Hughes, Langston  
Poems

Hugo, Victor  
Les Miserables

Huxley, Aldous  
Brave New World

Ibsen, Henrik  
A Doll's House  
An Enemy of the People  
Ghosts  
Hedda Gabler  
The Master Builder  
The Wild Duck

James, Henry  
The American  
Daisy Miller  
Portrait of a Lady  
The Turn of the Screw

Joyce, James  
Portrait of the Artist  
As a Young Man  
Dubliners

Kafka, Franz  
The Castle  
Metamorphosis  
The Trial

Keats, John  
Poems

Kerouac, Jack  
On the Road

Koestler, Arthur  
Darkness at Noon

Lawrence, D.H.  
Sons and Lovers

Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee  
Inherit the Wind

Lewis, Sinclair  
Arrowsmith  
Babbitt  
Main Street

Llewellyn, Richard

How Green Was My Valley

Machiavelli  
The Prince

MacLeish, Archibald  
J.B.

Mann, Thomas  
Buddenbrooks  
The Magic Mountain

Marlowe, Christopher  
Dr. Faustus

Maugham, Somerset  
Of Human Bondage

McCullers, Carson  
The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

Melville, Herman  
Billy Budd  
Moby-Dick  
Typee

Miller, Arthur  
The Crucible  
Death of a Salesman

Monsarrat, Nicholas  
The Cruel Sea

O'Neill, Eugene  
The Emperor Jones  
A Long Day's Journey into Night  
Mourning Becomes Electra

Orwell, George  
Animal Farm  
1984

Pasternak, Boris  
Doctor Zhivago

Poe, Edgar Allan  
Short stories

Remarque, Erich  
All Quiet on the Western Front

Rolvaag, O.E.  
Giants in the Earth

Rostand, Edmond  
Cyrano de Bergerac

Salinger, J.D.  
The Catcher in the Rye

Sandburg, Carl  
Abraham Lincoln:  
The Prairie Years  
Abraham Lincoln:  
The War Years

Saroyan, William  
The Human Comedy

Sayers, Dorothy  
The Nine Tailors

Shakespeare, William  
Plays and sonnets

Shaw, George Bernard  
Arms and the Man  
Major Barbara  
Pygmalion  
Saint Joan

Sheridan, Richard B.  
The School for Scandal

Shute, Nevil  
On the Beach

Sinclair, Upton  
The Jungle

Sophocles  
Antigone  
Oedipus Rex

Steinbeck, John  
East of Eden  
The Grapes of Wrath  
Of Mice and Men

Stowe, Harriet Beecher  
Uncle Tom's Cabin

Swift, Jonathan  
Gulliver's Travels

Thackeray, William M.  
Vanity Fair

Thoreau, Henry David  
Walden

Tolstoy, Leo  
Anna Karenina  
War and Peace

Trollope, Anthony  
Barchester Towers

Turgenev, Ivan  
Fathers and Sons

Twain, Mark  
Pudd'nhead Wilson

Updike, John  
Rabbit Run

Vergil  
The Aeneid

Voltaire  
Candide

Warren, Robert Penn  
All the King's Men

Waugh, Evelyn  
Brideshead Revisited  
A Handful of Dust

Wharton, Edith  
Age of Innocence

White, T.H.  
The Once and Future King  
The Sword in the Stone

Wilde, Oscar  
The Importance of Being Earnest  
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wilder, Thornton  
Our Town

Williams, Tennessee  
The Glass Menagerie  
A Streetcar Named Desire

Wolfe, Thomas  
Look Homeward, Angel

Woolf, Virginia  
Mrs. Dalloway  
To the Lighthouse

Wouk, Herman  
The Caine Mutiny

Wright, Richard  
Black Boy  
Native Son