

200

Books to Read in a Lifetime

This list of books includes works considered important, classics or special within their particular genre. Some have stood the test of time with generation after generation seeing their value; others are newer and just beginning to emerge as significant. Many of the authors listed here have multiple books that could be included on this list. There are assorted styles, themes and reading levels ranging from juvenile chapter books to upper college level tomes. Content will vary.

The writing styles or language used can be easier in abridged versions or those translated by different authors or at different times in the past.

This list was compiled from a number of sources and is not definitive or all inclusive.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
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<i>The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>	Douglas Adams
<i>Watership Down</i>	Richard Adams
<i>Aesop's Fables</i>	Aesop
<i>Little Women</i>	Louisa May Alcott
<i>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</i>	Maya Angelou

<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen
<i>Illusions</i>	Richard Bach
<i>National Velvet</i>	Enid Bagnold
<i>Go Tell it On The Mountain</i>	James Baldwin
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	L. Frank Baum
<i>Peter Pan</i>	J.M. Barrie
<i>Lorna Doone</i>	R.D. Blackmore
<i>Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret</i>	Judy Blume
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	John Boyne
<i>The Thirty-nine Steps</i>	John Buchan
<i>The Good Earth</i>	Pearl S. Buck
<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	John Bunyan
<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	Anthony Burgess
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Frances H. Burnett
<i>Tarzan of the Apes</i>	Edgar Rice Burroughs
<i>The Stranger</i>	Albert Camus
<i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i>	Truman Capote
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll
<i>Don Quixote</i>	Miguel De Cervantes Saavedra
<i>The Big Sleep</i>	Raymond Chandler
<i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	Geoffrey Chaucer
<i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i>	Agatha Christie
<i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i>	Eleanor Coerr
<i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>	Samuel Taylor Coleridge
<i>The Woman in White</i>	Wilkie Collins
<i>The Adventures of Pinocchio</i>	Carlo Collodi
<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Joseph Conrad
<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>	James F. Cooper

<i>The Chocolate War</i>	Robert Cormier
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	Stephen Crane
<i>The Divine Comedy</i>	Dante
<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	Daniel Defoe
<i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep</i>	Philip K. Dick
<i>David Copperfield</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>Deliverance</i>	James Dickey
<i>A Study in Scarlet</i>	Arthur Conan Doyle
<i>An American Tragedy</i>	Theodore Dreiser
<i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Fyodor Dostoyevsky
<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i>	Alexandre Dumas
<i>Rebecca</i>	Daphne Du Maurier
<i>The Name of the Rose</i>	Umberto Eco
<i>Middlemarch</i>	George Eliot
<i>Invisible Man</i>	Ralph Ellison
<i>Birdsong</i>	Sebastian Faulk
<i>As I Lay Dying</i>	William Faulkner
<i>Madame Bovary</i>	Gustave Flaubert
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald
<i>The Pillars of the Earth</i>	Ken Follett
<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	Esther Forbes
<i>A Room with a View</i>	E.M. Foster
<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i>	Anne Frank
<i>Old Yeller</i>	Fred Gipson
<i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i>	Arthur Golden
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding
<i>The Princess Bride</i>	William Goldman
<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>	Kenneth Grahame
<i>The Tin Drum</i>	Gunter Grass
<i>The Quiet American</i>	Graham Greene
<i>King Solomon's Mines</i>	H. Rider Haggard
<i>The Maltese Falcon</i>	Dashiell Hammett
<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>	Thomas Hardy
<i>The Silence of the Lambs</i>	Thomas Harris
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Nathaniel Hawthorne

<i>Stranger in a Strange Land (uncut)</i>	Robert Heinlein
<i>Catch-22</i>	Joseph Heller
<i>The Sun Also Rises</i>	Ernest Hemingway
<i>Dune</i>	Frank Herbert
<i>Goodbye, Mr. Chips</i>	James Hilton
<i>The Outsiders</i>	S.E. Hinton
<i>Complete Works of Homer</i>	Homer
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>Les Miserables</i>	Victor Hugo
<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	Irene Hunt
<i>Brave New World</i>	Aldous Huxley
<i>The World According to Garp</i>	John Irving
<i>Rip Van Winkle</i>	Washington Irving
<i>The Remains of the Day</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro
<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>	Shirley Jackson
<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	Harriet Jacobs
<i>Smoky the Cowhorse</i>	Will James
<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>	Norton Jester
<i>From Here to Eternity</i>	James Jones
<i>The Trial</i>	Franz Kafka
<i>Rifles for Watie</i>	Harold Keith
<i>The Story of My Life</i>	Helen Keller
<i>Schindler's List</i>	Thomas Keneally
<i>On The Road</i>	Jack Kerouac
<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	Ken Kesey
<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>	Daniel Keyes
<i>The Stand</i>	Stephen King
<i>Kim</i>	Rudyard Kipling
<i>A Separate Peace</i>	John Knowles
<i>Women in Love</i>	D.H. Lawrence
<i>Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy</i>	John Le Carre
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Madeleine L'Engle
<i>The Phantom of the Opera</i>	Gaston Leroux
<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>	C.S. Lewis
<i>Main Street</i>	Sinclair Lewis
<i>Doctor Doolittle</i>	Hugh Lofting
<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London

The Giver – Lois Lowry
The Prince – Niccolo Machiavelli
One Hundred Years of Solitude
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
The Last Mission – Harry Mazer
The Road – Cormac McCarthy
Angela's Ashes – Frank McCourt
The Thorn Birds – Colleen McCullough
Atonement – Ian McEwan
Lonesome Dove – Larry McMurtry
Moby Dick - Herman Melville
The Crucible – Arthur Miller
Winnie the Pooh – A.A. Milne
Paradise Lost – John Milton
Gone with the Wind – Margaret Mitchell
Anne of Green Gables
L.M. Montgomery
Beloved – Toni Morrison
Lolita – Vladimir Nabokov
Mutiny On The Bounty
Charles Bernard Nordhoff
The Borrowers – Mary Norton
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
Robert C. O'Brien
Island of the Blue Dolphin – Scott O'Dell
My Friend Flicka – Mary O'Hara
Animal Farm – George Orwell
1984 – George Orwell
Wonder – R.J. Palacio
Doctor Zhivago – Boris Pasternak
Jacob Have I Loved – Katherine Paterson
The Last Lecture – Randy Pausch
Bridge to Terabithia
Katherine Paterson
*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle
Maintenance* – Robert M. Pirsig
The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath
The Republic – Plato
The Tale of Peter Rabbit – Beatrix Potter
Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
Howard Pyle
The Westing Game – Ellen Raskin
The Yearling – Marjorie K. Rawlings
Where the Red Fern Grows
Wilson Rawls

All Quiet on the Western Front
Erich Remarque
Housekeeping – Marilynne Robinson
The Little Prince
Antoine de Saint-Exupery
The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
Bambi, a Life in the Woods – Felix Salten
Shane - Jack Schefer
The Reader – Bernhard Schlink
Ivanhoe – Walter Scott
A Suitable Boy – Vikram Seth
Black Beauty - Anna Sewell
*The Complete Works of William
Shakespeare* – William Shakespeare
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
On the Beach – Nevil Shute
The Giving Tree - Shel Silverstein
The Jungle – Upton Sinclair
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith
Heidi - Johanna Spyri
Angle of Repose – Wallace Stegner
Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
Treasure Island – Robert L. Stevenson
Dracula (original) - Bram Stoker
Uncle Tom's Cabin
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Sophie's Choice – William Styron
Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift
The Home and the World
Rabindranath Tagore
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Mildred D. Taylor
Vanity Fair – William M. Thackeray
Walden – Henry David Thoreau
Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien
War and Peace – Leo Tolstoy
The Best Short Stories of Mark Twain
Mark Twain
20,000 Leagues Under The Sea
Jules Vern
The Aeneid – Virgil
Candide – Voltaire
Slaughterhouse Five – Kurt Vonnegut
The Color Purple – Alice Walker
All the King's Men – Robert P. Warren

Brideshead Revisited – Evelyn Waugh
Daddy Long Legs – Jean Webster
The Time Machine – H.G. Wells
The Age of Innocence – Edith Wharton
The Once and Future King – T.H. White
Leaves of Grass – Walt Whitman
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm
Kate D. Wiggin
The Importance of Being Earnest
Oscar Wilde
The Bridge of San Luis Rey
Thornton Wilder
The Velveteen Rabbit
Margery Williams
A Streetcar Named Desire
Tennessee Williams
Mrs. Dalloway – Virginia Woolf
Swiss Family Robinson - Johann R. Wyss
Amos Fortune, Free Man
Elizabeth Yates
The Pigman – Paul Zindel

Many have tried to qualify what makes a book a classic. Is it the age of the book, social significance, perfect prose and form? Maybe it is the underlying message, prestigious recognition or perhaps even the number of copies distributed that makes it a classic? According to Italo Calvino, in his essay *Why Read the Classics*, published in 1986 "...a classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say." It seem for a book to be considered a classic there is some strange mixture of all of these attributes....along with an emotional or mental connection to the things that make us who we are. These are books that beg to be re-read and quoted. These are books that give us characters that we love, hate, need or want to be.

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