Newport News Public Library

STAFF READING SUGGESTIONS

The Book Bucket List:

100 BOOKS TO READ DURING YOUR LIFETIME

This recommended reading list includes fiction and non-fiction titles, books from a wide variety of genres, classics and popular reads. It also includes books written in a wide variety of eras, cultures, and literary styles. There are books written for children, as well as, those written for adults (both young and older).

What this list does not include are the scriptural writings of any religion. We encourage everyone to explore the writings upon which the world’s religions are based. However, including the scriptures from even just the largest religions in the world (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Shinto) would take up a sizable portion of this list and make it impossible to include many other worthy titles. Further, including the writings of only a select group of religions could be misunderstood as an endorsement of the beliefs or teachings of those religions. If you are interested in reading the scriptures of any religion, a library staff member can help you locate these writings.

The Book Bucket List is arranged alphabetically by title. If a book is a part of a series, the series name has been included, in case you want to read more. The Newport News Library owns at least one copy of all these works.

Check book titles off after you read them!

- 1984 – (1949) George Orwell
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – (1884) Mark Twain
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – (1891-92) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland – (1865) Lewis Carroll
- Animal Farm – (1945) George Orwell
- Anna Karenina – (1877-77) Leo Tolstoy
- The Art of War – (c. 500 BCE) Sun Tzu
- Atlas Shrugged – (1957) Ayn Rand
- The Big Sleep – (1939) Raymond Chandler
- Black Beauty: the autobiography of a horse – (1877) Anna Sewell
- Bleak House – (1852-53) Charles Dickens
- Brave New World – (1932) Aldous Huxley
- A Brief History of Time – (1986) Stephen Hawking
- The Call of the Wild – (1903) Jack London
- The Catcher in the Rye – (1951) J.D. Salinger
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – (1964) Roald Dahl
- Charlotte’s Web – (1952) E.B. White


David Copperfield – (1849-50) Charles Dickens


The Diary of a Young Girl – (1947) Anne Frank

The Divine Comedy – (c. 1308-20) Dante Alighieri

Dopefiend – (1971) Donald Goines

Dracula – (1897) Bram Stoker

Dune (Dune Saga series) – (1965) Frank Herbert

Ender's Game (Ender Wiggin series) – (1985) Orson Scott Card

Fahrenheit 451 – (1953) Ray Bradbury

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas – (1971) Hunter S. Thompson

Flowers for Algernon – (1966) Daniel Keyes

Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus – (1818) Mary Shelley

Game of Thrones (Song of Ice and Fire series) – (1996) George R.R. Martin


Gone Girl – (2012) Gillian Flynn

Gone with the Wind – (1936) Margaret Mitchell

The Great Gatsby – (1925) F. Scott Fitzgerald

Gulliver's Travels – (1726) Jonathan Swift


The Handmaid's Tale – (1985) Margaret Atwood


The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter – (1940) Carson McCullers

Heart of Darkness – (1899) Joseph Conrad

The Hunger Games (Hunger Games trilogy) – (2008) Suzanne Collins


In Cold Blood: a true account of a multiple murder & its consequences – (1965) Truman Capote

Invisible Man – (1952) Ralph Ellison

It – (1986) Stephen King

Jane Eyre – (1847) Charlotte Bronte

The Kite Runner – (2003) Khaled Hosseini

The Last of the Mohicans – (1826) James Fenimore Cooper

Life of Pi – (2001) Yann Martel

The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson & the Olympians series) – (2005) Rick Riordan

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Chronicles of Narnia series) – (1950) C.S. Lewis

The Little Prince – (1943) Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Lolita – (1955) Vladimir Nabokov

The Lord of the Rings (written in three parts) – (1954-55) J.R.R. Tolkien

Love in the Time of Cholera – (1985) Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Madame Bovary – (1856) Gustave Flaubert


Les Misérables – (1862) Victor Hugo

Moby Dick or the Whale – (1851) Herman Melville

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd – (1926) Agatha Christie

The Name of the Rose – (1980) Umberto Eco

Of Mice and Men (The Labor trilogy) – (1937) John Steinbeck

The Picture of Dorian Gray – (1890) Oscar Wilde

Pimp – (1967) Iceberg Slim

Presumed Innocent – (1987) Scott Turow

Pride and Prejudice – (1813) Jane Austen

Rebecca – (1938) Daphne du Maurier

Riders of the Purple Sage – (1912) Zane Grey

The Road – (2006) Cormac McCarthy

Robinson Crusoe – (1719) Daniel Defoe

The Scarlet Letter – (1850) Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Slaughterhouse Five or the Children’s Crusade* – (1969) Kurt Vonnegut
- *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (*George Smiley novels*) – (1963) John Le Carre
- *The Sun also Rises* – (1926) Ernest Hemingway
- *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* – (1891) Thomas Hardy
- *The Three Musketeers* – (1844) Alexandre Dumas
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* – (1960) Harper Lee
- *The Turn of the Screw* – (1898) Henry James
- *Ulysses* – (1922) James Joyce
- *The Virginian: a horseman of the plains* – (1902) Owen Wister
- *The War of the Worlds* – (1897) H.G. Wells
- *Watership Down* – (1972) Richard Adams
- *The Wind in the Willows* – (1908) Kenneth Grahame
- *Wuthering Heights* – (1847) Emily Bronte