

READING LIST – AP LANGUAGE & AMERICAN LITERATURE

V. Stevenson, Patrick Henry High School
AP English Language and Composition

NOTES: Please feel free to suggest books to be added to the list. Ask your US History teachers for suggestions. Most of the titles here are fiction, but you are also encouraged to read nonfiction, especially biography, that is appropriate for the era. You must obtain permission for any title that is not already listed.

ERA 1: COLONIAL TO MID-19TH CENTURY

(Colonial, Revolutionary, Romantics)
Cooper, James Fenimore – The Last of the Mohicans
Franklin, Benjamin – Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Hawthorne, Nathaniel – The House of Seven Gables
The Scarlet Letter
Melville, Herman – Moby Dick
Billy Budd
Mitchner, James – Chesapeake
Centennial
Hawaii
Thoreau, Henry D. – Walden
Vidal, Gore – Burr (biography)

ERA 2: CIVIL WAR & 19TH CENTURY RACE RELATIONS

Brown, Dee – Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee
Crane, Stephen – The Red Badge of Courage
Frazier, Charles – Cold Mountain
Haley, Alex – Roots
Morrison, Toni – Beloved
Shaara, Michael – The Killer Angels
Stowe, Harriet Beecher – Uncle Tom's Cabin
Vidal, Gore – Lincoln (biography)
Welch, James – Fools Crow

ERA 3: LATER 19TH CENTURY

(Post Civil War, Westward Movement, Industrial Age)
Ambrose, Stephen – Undaunted Courage (nonfiction)
Cather, Willa – O Pioneers!
My Antonia
Clark, Walter van Tilburg – The Oxbow Incident
Dreiser, Theodore – Sister Carrie
An American Tragedy
James, Henry – Portrait of a Lady
Washington Square
The Ambassadors
McMurty, Larry – Lonesome Dove
Lewis & Clark expedition)
Twain, Mark – A Connecticut Yankee in King
Arthur's Court
Wharton, Edith – The House of Mirth
The Age of Innocence
Ethan Frome

Summer

ERA 4: EARLY 20TH CENTURY

(Early Modernism, 1900 to WWII)
Baldwin, James – Go Tell It on the Mountain
Doctorow, E.L. – Ragtime, & other titles
Faulkner, William – The Sound and the Fury
Absalom, Absalom
Light in August
As I Lay Dying
Hemingway, Ernest – The Sun Also Rises
For Whom the Bell Tolls
A Farewell to Arms
Lewis, Sinclair – Babbitt
Arrowsmith
Morrison, Toni -- The Bluest Eye
Jazz
Song of Solomon
Norris, Frank – McTeague
The Octopus
Potok, Chaim – The Chosen
My Name is Asher Lev
Sinclair, Upton – The Jungle
Smith, Betty – A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Stegner, Wallace -- The Big Rock Candy Mountain
Joe Hill
Angle of Repose
Steinbeck, John – The Grapes of Wrath
East of Eden
Cannery Row
Walker, Alice – The Color Purple

ERA 5: WW II & Later 20TH CENTURY

Branch, Taylor – Pillar of Fire (nonfiction, civil rights)
Capote, Truman – In Cold Blood (nonfiction)
Collins & Lapierre – Is Paris Burning? (nonfiction, WWII)
Dillard, Annie – An American Childhood
Ellison, Ralph – Invisible Man
Gaines, Ernest -- A Lesson Before Dying
Guterson, David -- Snow Falling on Cedars
Haley, Alex -- Autobiography of Malcom X
Heller, Joseph – Catch 22
Keillor, Garrison – Lake Wobegon Days
Kesey, Ken – One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Knowles, John – A Separate Peace
Kogawa, Joy -- Obasan (Canadian)

Lee, Harper – To Kill a Mockingbird
O'Brien, Tim – The Things They Carried
Plath, Sylvia -- The Bell Jar
Puzo, Mario – The Godfather
Salinger, J.D. – The Catcher in the Rye
Silko, Leslie Marmon – Ceremony
Villasenor, Victor – Rain of Gold
Warren, Robert Penn – All the King's Men
Wolf, Tom – The Right Stuff (nonfiction)
Wouk, Herman – Winds of War
Wright, Richard – Native Son

**ERA 6: CONTEMPORARY, POST
MODERN**

Boyle, TC -- Tortilla Curtain
Conroy, Pat – Lords of Discipline
Conway, Jill – The Road from Coorain
Dillard, Annie – An American Childhood
Jen, Gish – Typical American
Proulx, Annie – Shipping News
Quindlen, Anna -- Blessings
Reichl, Ruth – Tender at the Bone
Rodriguez, Richard, -- Hunger for Memory (autobio)
Smiley, Jane – A Thousand Acres
Wolff, Tobias – This Boy's Life