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We asked our community which works of literature were must-reads for high schoolers. Here are your top picks. The more things change, the more things change, the more they stay the same. The final cut of our list of indispensable high school reads—culled from reader comments—is dominated by perennials like George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four and J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye. The five most popular entries were all published within 15 years of each other, and none were published later than Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird in 1960. Only three of the works on the list could be considered recent, appearing within the last 20 years: Stephen Chbosky's epistolary novel The Perks of Being a Wallflower (1999); Marjane Satrapi's graphic memoir Persepolis, about growing up during the Iranian Revolution (2000-03); and Cormac McCarthy's brutal, dark novel The Road (2006). The specter of World War II, with its themes of totalitarianism, social fragmentation, mass surveillance, and the decline of individual freedom, looms over many of the novels. Dystopian novels form a major category: Orwell's Animal Farm, William Golding's allegory The Lord of the Flies, Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist comedy Slaughterhouse-Five, Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, and McCarthy's The Road join Nineteen Eighty-Four here. Thinking back on my days as a high school English teacher, it feels like I missed an opportunity to teach dystopia as a theme. There's a wealth of material to draw from-and it's both high guality and accessible to a broad range of high school readers. A recurring pedagogical issue emerged as teachers joined the conversation: How should educators balance challenging books-works by Shakespeare, for example—with the students' desire for choice? How can teachers ensure rich, shared learning opportunities without putting their students off reading, a dogmatic reliance on the classics appears to be catastrophic. You can read some devastating student feedback about choice-less classrooms in the Edutopia post "Start a Reading Revolution." And as literacy educator Kelly Gallagher, the author of Readicide, recently tweeted: "For the 3rd year in a row, 90%+ of my seniors have admitted they have fake read their way to the 12th grade. Schools must change!" I asked a similar question of my freshmen English classes many years ago, and got the same dispiriting response. Almost none of my incoming freshmen had finished a book in the previous three years. For an approach to balancing student choice with curated texts, read Brian Sztabnik's recent Edutopia post "Igniting a Passion for Reading." 1. To Kill a MockingbirdHarper Lee's seminal coming-of-age story set in the fictional southern town of Maycomb, Alabama. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: racial injustice, moral and spiritual growth, courage and integrity, innocence and experience.2. Nineteen Eighty-FourGeorge Orwell's vision of a totalitarian future, not long after the Atomic Wars have reduced the courage and integrity. geopolitical map to three superstates: Eurasia, Oceania, and Eastasia. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: totalitarianism and state power, surveillance, individual freedom, the nature of truth, the power of propaganda.3. Lord of the FliesWilliam Golding's tale of child castaways who establish a violent social order on a deserted island. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: civilization and governance, social and moral order, savagery and primitivism, cruelty, leadership, injustice.4. Animal FarmGeorge Orwell's allegory tracing the formation of Soviet Russia. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: totalitarianism and state power, individual freedom, the mutability of historical truth, the power of propaganda, the cult of personality.5. Catcher in the RyeThe reclusive J.D. Salinger's most popular novel, told through the eyes of the notoriously irreverent teenager Holden Caulfield. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: unreliable narrators, individuality and identity, social alienation and rebellion, social mores and rules.6. The Grapes of WrathJohn Steinbeck's Depression-era classic, which follows the travels of impoverished Dust Bowl refugees as they flee westward to California. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: wealth and poverty, injustice, social and political policy and governance, biblical themes such as judgment and redemption.7. Invisible ManRalph Ellison's meditation on the effects of race, told from the perspective of an African American narrator rendered invisible by his skin color. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: race and racial injustice, identity, ideology and belief systems.8. The AlchemistPaulo Coelho's tale of a Spanish shepherd who hopes to find his destiny on a journey to Egypt. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: adventure and courage, hope, destiny.9. Slaughterhouse-FiveKurt Vonnegut's dark, absurdist comedy centered on the devastating firebombing of Dresden, Germany, during World War II. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: nonlinear narratives, unreliable narrators, existentialism and absurdism, the true nature of warfare.10. The Handmaid's TaleMargaret Atwood's dystopian novel depicting the rise, in the United States, of a theocratic government dedicated to the oppression of women. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: totalitarianism, patriarchy and misogyny, surveillance, politics and governance, gender roles.11. The Great GatsbyF. Scott Fitzgerald's lyrical, Jazz Age novel about the idealist James Gatsby—and the nature of the American Dream, wealth and class, idealism.12. The Bluest EyeToni Morrison's story of Pecola Breedlove, a young, often-abused African American girl who dreams of having blue eyes—a tangible sign of acceptance in a world dominated by white conceptions of beauty and belonging. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: identity, race and racial injustice, the effects of abuse, beauty and ugliness, insanity.13. Of Mice and MenJohn Steinbeck's story of an unlikely—and tragically fated—friendship between two men of remarkably different intellectual abilities. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: friendship and loyalty, character, cruelty and mercy.14. MacbethShakespeare's portrait of an ambitious Scottish warrior who wants to be king—and is goaded to murder to achieve his goal. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: the nature of evil, power and ambition, insanity, chaos and disorder.15. Brave New WorldAldous Huxley's slim novel envisioning a future "utopia" with perverse qualities—as the human race succumbs to overdoses of pleasure, amusement, and hedonism. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: genetic manipulation, state power, drug use, individualism and society.16. The RoadCormac McCarthy's bleak novel about a boy and his father seeking safety in a post-apocalyptic world. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: good and evil, death, apocalypse, cruelty, hope and hopelessness.17. Their Eyes Were Watching GodZora Neale Hurston's heavily vernacular novel depicting the life of Janie Crawford, an African American woman in the Jim Crow South at the turn of the 20th century. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: gender roles, race and racial injustice, the representation of American dialects, the nature of love.18. The Perks of Being a WallflowerStephen Chbosky's epistolary, coming-ofage novel about an introverted, emotionally scarred high school freshman named Charlie. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: introverts, teen romance, alcohol and drug use, the effects of abuse.19. PersepolisMarjane Satrapi's graphic novel, an autobiography that describes growing up in Tehran, Iran, during the era of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: graphic novels, Iranian culture, politics and religion, war.20. NightElie Wiesel's spare memoir-novel based on his experiences in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Frimary themes of interest to high schoolers: graphic novels, Iranian culture, politics and religion, war.20. NightElie Wiesel's spare memoir-novel based on his experiences in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Jewish experience. Please feel free to suggest more indispensable high school reads—we'd love to add to the list. After all, more choice can only assist teachers engaged in the essential, never-ending work of helping students master literacy. And let us know if we should start lists for elementary and middle school too . . . The author of this article is the chief content officer at Edutopia. You can follow him on Twitter @smerrill777.LiteracyEnglish Language Arts9-12 High School High school is a time to read a multifaceted collection of literature, exposing students to a wide array of human cultures and experiences. In the past, the classical canon of high school books focused heavily on those written by—and often about—white men. While many of these novels still deserve to be (and are) on high school reading lists, it's important to bring in modern novels with authors and perspectives that better reflect the diverse experiences of all. To that end, we asked high school teachers to recommend their top non-canonical fiction for high school students. We're sharing their favorite contemporary selections, along with some of the most popular classic novels too. While we've divided them into lists by grade, these are just suggestions. Choose the books that are right for your audience, regardless of where they fall on our list. Be sure to grab a free printable list of these high school book recommendations to share with your students! Jump to: Amazon Amid the horrors of war in Nazi Germany, young Liesel Meminger finds one way to cope: stealing forbidden books and sharing them with others. This gripping story has become a favorite for teens and adults alike in recent years. Buy it: The Book Thief Amazon When freshman Melinda is sexually assaulted while drunk at a party, she calls the cops to break up the party. Now everyone at school is mad at her for getting them busted, and Melinda has withdrawn into her own head, unable to speak at all. When she's threatened with a repeat of her assault, Melinda must find a way to speak out at last. Buy it: Speak Amazon This novel told in verse follows 15-year-old Will as he picks up a gun for the first time and heads out to avenge his oldest brother's shooting death. As the elevator slowly carries him to the ground floor of his apartment building, each stop reveals a new angle on the realities of gun violence, forcing Will to think long and hard about what's expected—and what's right. Buy it: Long Way Down Amazon This unique novella captures the stories of a diverse urban community as they tend the bean seeds planted by an immigrant child. This is a terrific high-low choice, with text that's easy to read but concepts that are complex enough for teens to explore. Buy it: Seedfolks Amazon Tough Xiomara (See-oh-MAH-ruh) is 15 and a first-generation Dominican American. To deal with harassment, she's become known as a fighter, literally. With no support from her repressive and unstable family, Xiomara eventually finds healthier ways to express herself through poetry. As she competes in a poetry slam and begins a relationship with Aman, Xiomara slowly finds what she needs to survive her own challenging circumstances. Buy it: The Poet X Amazon Santiago, a young Andalusian shepherd, dreams of discovering treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. Following his dreams, he journeys across the desert, meeting people like a king, a merchant, and an alchemist, each with their own lesson to teach him. This is a fairy tale/fable for teens, full of inspiration and the positive messages everyone needs at this age. Buy it: The Alchemist Amazon White Quinn knows his Black friend Rashad wasn't trying to steal a bag of chips, but that doesn't stop a police officer from brutally beating the boy in an all-too-familiar act of police overreach. We hear the story of the attack and its repercussions in alternating voices from the two boys in this powerful book that sadly seems ripped from the headlines. Buy it: All American Boys Amazon When aspiring teen filmmaker Steve is accused of murder, he writes his story the best way he knows how: as a script with accompanying journal entries. This style of writing will likely intrigue many teens who find reading a bit of a chore, as it cuts straight to the dialogue and action. The story itself is riveting, and, in a bold choice, the author leaves the ending up to the reader. Buy it: Monster Amazon Thirteen-year-old Mississippi boy JoJo is becoming a man, but he's not entirely sure what that even means to him. His white father is in prison, and his Black grandfather won't even acknowledge his dad's existence. When his father is released from prison and the family life in the Deep South over three generations. Buy it: Sing, Unburied, Sing Amazon After a mysterious event kills off most people and leaves the majority of the rest unable to have children, teenage Griz is one of a few survivors. Living on an isolated Scottish island with his family and beloved dogs, he's devastated when a stranger kidnaps one of the pups. Griz's journey to bring him home again reveals the remains of a world that still contains the worst and best of humanity. Kirkus called this post-apocalyptic tale "un-put-downable." Buy it: A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World Amazon Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: her urban Black neighborhood and the suburban mostly white prep school she attends. She struggles to walk the line between the two until the day she witnesses the shooting death of her (unarmed) childhood friend Khalil by a police officer. Public opinion, the media, and the courts paint very different pictures of the victim, and only Starr can tell the truth—if she can figure out the right things to say. Teachers today consider this a mustread novel for all teens. Buy it: The Hate U Give Amazon Amir is the child of a wealthy family in Afghanistan during the 1960s when he befriends Hassan, the son of his father's servant. Their relationship changes forever when Hassan is assaulted during a kite-fighting competition while Amir does nothing to stop it. As Amir grows up, this incident shapes his entire life. Set against the backdrop of the turbulent years of change in Afghanistan at the end of the 20th century, this story of redemption has become a beloved classic, one that launched Hosseini's career. Buy it: The Kite Runner Amazon Seventeen-year-old Zuri lives in Brooklyn with her loud, boisterous Haitian-Dominican family, and she's proud of it all. When the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, she wants nothing to do with the snobby Darius, although her sister falls for older brother Ainsley. Over time, though, the two find more and more common ground, falling for each other in a relationship that might not be fated to end as well as Austen's original classic. Buy it: Pride: A Pride and Prejudice Remix Amazon Another popular high school book tackling police brutality, this one follows Justyce, a Black student who tries to do a good deed and finds himself different from "THOSE" black guys." Through a series of journal entries written as letters to his hero Dr. King, Justyce realizes that the way he views himself may not match up with the unfair stereotypes others hold to be true. Buy it: Dear Martin Amazon Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth lead a seemingly idyllic life at an elite boarding school. But as they grow into their teens, they realize they're human clones, raised only for the purpose of "donating" their organs until they die. As each learns their own specific purpose, they must make choices and navigate their relationships with each other, knowing their lives may never really be their own to control. This dystopian novel won the Nobel Prize for Literature and asks pertinent questions about the sanctity of human life in an age of advanced technology. Buy it: Never Let Me Go Amazon The stories of 12 modern Native American characters prepare to join the Big Oakland Powwow, each confronts truths about their own lives and the devastating legacy of centuries of colonialism. Each of these "Urban Indians" has their own story and identity (making them just like every other American), and while their stories are influenced by their heritage, they also depend on personal ethics and choices. Buy it: There There Amazon Expose students to the conflict in Vietnam and the complexities of war with this collection of interconnected essays and short stories. The blend of fact and fiction encourages readers to consider the importance of storytelling as a way to process trauma and heal. The challenging themes are ideal for older students who are beginning to form their own moral and ethical guidelines for life. Buy it: The Things They Carried Amazon Long before the smash hit streaming series, Atwood's fascinating dystopian novel speculated on a future where women no longer had control over their own bodies. These days, it feels all-too-prescient. The streaming series is good, but pair it with the novel to truly understand the characters' actions and motivations. Follow it up with the sequel, The Testaments, which provides fascinating backstories and resolution for many characters. Buy it: The Handmaid's Tale Amazon The Soviet occupation of Russia in the 1980s was bad for the nation as a whole, but allowed many women freedoms that had been prohibited for centuries. Even so, life was still incredibly challenging for women in a country deeply divided by morality and religion. Follow the stories of two women whose complex relationship exposes students to a culture many can never even begin to imagine. Buy it: A Thousand Splendid Suns Amazon In his Igbo village in Nigeria, Okonkwo spent years establishing his status as a respected warrior, as chronicled in part one of this stunning novel. When the British colonialists and Christian missions arrive, though, the villagers find themselves split. Okonkwo wishes to fight for his own culture, but even identifying the "enemy" is a challenge and eventually drives him away. When he returns after many years, he finds the Christian colonizers' culture has thoroughly and irrevocably intertwined with his own. In the end, his sense of loss leads to the ultimate personal tragedy. Buy it: Things Fall Apart We Are Teachers Just fill out the form on this page with your email address for immediate access. Are you looking for must-have books to read for high school students? Read on, teacher friend! If you are like me, you know the value of independent reading in your high school English classroom. But if you are also like me, you may struggle at times to match reluctant readers to books they will enjoy. I've spent a lot of time reading young adult books, talking to the LRC ladies at my school, and browsing the interwebs in search of books to add to my mental list of book recommendations for students. In this post, I'll share my favorite books to recommend to students in my own classroom or that I am eager to try next year. If it seems like a lot of YA books are sci fi and/or fantasy, you are right. There is a growing pool of great books to recommend to students. that students love reading. And this is my personal favorite category, so it comes first!DeliriumDelirium is a part of a trilogy along with subsequent books Pandemonium and Requiem. Dystopia, forbidden love, resistance, rebellion. Teen readers eat these up!Unwind SeriesWhat if your parents could sign up to "unwind" you, a.k.a. human organ and tissue donation, without your consent? Follow the story of three teenagers who escape from their own unwinding and discover America's dirty little secret while making the reader think about what it means to be human and philosophical questions of morality, power, and control. Scythe SeriesFast forward into the future, where the world has managed to totally get rid of problems such as hunger and sickness. Sounds ideal, right? Well, not if scythes roam the world as a form of population control. Follow the story of two apprentice scythes and its impact on the main characters and, possibly, time itself. NyxiaIf your high school students like this book, then there are two more to round out the triad. In this story, teens who come from different backgrounds are chosen to compete for the opportunity to travel through space to Nyxia. If chosen, they could make life better not only for themselves, but also for their loved ones back home, but will they have to sacrifice themselves in the process? DryWhat would you do for water? California's drought is out of control, and the main character, after losing her parents, must protect her brother and make tough choices. This is a book I've added to my personal reading list so that I can recommend to students. Graphic novels are quick and accessible for reluctant readers, so I had to include a few of my favorites to this list of books to read for high school students. What all of these books have in common is that they are so much more than comic books. addiction.MarchThe first in a graphic novel trilogy, March tells the true story of John Lewis set against the backdrop of Jim Crow and the Civil War. A must-read for any student! They Called Us EnemyThis memoir takes us behind the backdrop of Jim Crow and the Civil War. A must-read for any student! This book will make students think about racism and American identity. Hey, KiddoJarrett's mother is an addict, his father is gone, and he lives with his grandparents. He uses his art as a creative outlet and tries to be "normal," but will later find out the truth about his family. When Stars Are ScatteredSomali refugee brothers Omar and Hassan have spent most of their lives in a Kenyan refugee camp. One of the brothers gets the opportunity to pursue an education, but must leave the other brother behind. Well, everything, Everything this book is one that has both an interesting concept and engaging writing. The main character is allergic to everything and lives in her house, closed off from the outside world. That is, until his girlfriend cheated on him, he broke his leg, and he fell in love with the new girl. The Sun is Also a StarThis is a sweet love story between an about-to-be-deported girl and a boy who is Yale-bound and does everything right. This book will make students fall in love with the characters and think about topics such as family, love, and immigrationIt would not be hyperbole to say that these books are stunning. I'm not usually a fan of books in verse, but these ones had me at hello and should definitely be a part of your list o' books to read for high school students. With the Fire on HighIf you ever read The Poet X (also a book my students love), this next work by the same author will have your students love. character's head as he grapples with choices, both good and bad and somewhere in-between. Despite its serious subject matter, this book will have you laughing and entertained. A Long Way DownThis book explores teen gun violence and has collected a lot of accolades, but the best award it receives every year is the handful of my students who sit gued to its pages, not saying a word, because they couldn't wait to read it during reading time. If a student tells me that he or she "hates to read," one of these titles usually does the trick. A lot of these titles usually does the trick. A lot of these titles usually does the trick. following the protagonist, a decidedly large and unpopular high school student, as he teams up with the school quarterback in his mission to make the end, students will think about identity and friendship. Add it to your list of books to read for high school teenage boys! SlayKiera is the smart girl in school who creates an online community of Black gamers in her role-playing game by the name of Slay. Unfortunately, her identity and online space come under attack, and she must try to protect her secret identity. a group home, Mary inevitably has to confront her past, revealing who she really is in the process. Orbiting JupiterAfter getting everything taken from him, including his infant daughter. The Other SideLife is all a matter of perspective, and it takes a girl named Alice to help Toby see the good in himself despite his past. The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto, goes on a journey that will tug at your heartstrings and remind you a bit of the story of Forrest Gump. I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican DaughterJulia is not perfect, and she feels pressure to be something that she is not. This book, Sadie tries her whole life to protect her younger sister from harm, but is unsuccessful. After Mattie dies, Sadie is on a mission to find book is told in multiple perspectives and involves hard-hitting topics, but I've had students who couldn't put it down. BeartownI love Fredrik Backman, the way he writes character-driven novels, the way he makes small town life come alive for the reader. Beartown has nothing going for it except hockey story is less about sports and more about the stories of the people in this town. WingerThis book is laugh out loud funny, a bit off-color and irreverent, and one that never fails to engage teen boys. If I am out of luck and a student just can't find any book to like, this is my go-to. Last but not least, nonfiction memoir had to make the book list. The first title below transformed my most reluctant reader last year into a boy who carried this title around in his backpack because he found it so engaging. Laughing at My NightmareShane Burkaw deals it straight in this honest (and funny) memoir, helping readers to see the realities of living with a disability and that he's just another guy like everyone else. The book starts out with a forest of pube-y leg hair which usually gets students' attention. Every Falling StarSungju pulls back the curtain on street life in North Korea, including his fight to survive and later escape. Students will no doubt think about the freedoms they may take for granted. The Running DreamWhen the main character, a runner, loses her leg in a car accident, she thinks she'll never run again...she is wrong! This title makes it onto the list of books to read for high school because it is an inspirational story that also highlights the importance of friendship. All These WondersThis little collection of Moth stories focus on taking risks, acting with courage, and facing the unknown. I'm purchasing this book for students who may have trouble sustaining momentum through a longer text. What Made Maddy RunThis was an option for literature circles in my classes, and the interest was so high that I chose to form two groups in one of my classes. This book explores the incredible pressure put upon college athletes that, combined with depression, led to Maddy's suicide.Middle School BooksHigh School Novel StudyThough many of these texts could fit in multiple categories, I put each of them in ONE categories, I put each of them in ONE category to simplify things. If you're looking to create literature circles, these are great recommendation lists to choose from!Growing Up & Finding One's SelfDiverse FictionNonfiction / MemoirClassicsDystopian / Sci Fi Fiction / Fantasy / Magical RealismDrama / EpicHistorical Fiction / PhilosophyShort Stories / Essays A huge number of books exist out there, ready and waiting for you to read them. Whether you prefer manga or ancient, epic poems, reading is great for all sorts of reasons. What follows is a list of highly beneficial books to read in high school (or after!). These are remarkable books that made history, books that challenge societal perceptions of the world, and books that are quite simply interesting and moving. The books that challenge societal perceptions of the world as hort description is given for each book, as well an explanation of why it is hort description is given for each books. worth reading. Why Is Reading Important? Why should you read these books? Why should you read at all for that matter? Reading is essential to communication, especially in an era of emails and texting. Beyond even that, though, reading is essential to communication, especially in an era of emails and text scores. You'll learn about other places other times, and other cultures. You 'll encounter issues you can relate to—issues that speak to you and challenge you to think and feel in new ways. You will grow, empathetically and intellectually. Plus, you'll understand more of the references that crop up all the time in pop culture. Below are 31 books to read in high school that will help you prepare for college and beyond. 1984 (George Orwell) This dystopian novel by George Orwell was written 35 years before the date referenced by the title. In this book, Orwell tells a story that warns readers about the possible consequences of complacency in the face of rising dictators (think Hitler and Stalin) and burgeoning technology ripe for misuse. He describes a world where everything is monitored, right down to citizens' thoughts, and where any opposition to the ruling class is punishable by extreme measures. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain) This sequel to Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is much graver in nature than its predecessor. There are still plenty of good antics worthy of a laugh, but it concerns itself largely with a young boy's attempt to escape severe family dysfunction and the moral implications of his taking an escaped slave as a companion on his adventure down the Mississippi River. Readers should be warned that the "n-word" is used liberally throughout the novel, which tends to be jarring to many a modern ear. Mark Twain wants you to read his novel (s). The Awakening (Kate Chopin) Set in the Creole culture of the late 1800s, this novel (s). property, and they were expected to act in demure and socially acceptable ways. As the protagonist "awakens" to her emotional and sexual needs, as well as the ultimate truth of her own independence, all sorts of problems ensue. The novel examines the balance between self-respect and selfishness. The Bell Jar (Sylvia Plath) This autobiographical novel by poet Sylvia Plath explores the deep, dark reality of mental illness. The protagonist, Esther, a stand-in for Plath herself, is a college student exploring her talents, interests, and sexuality as she descends into an unsettling spiral of mental illness. portrayed in this book. Black Rain (Masuji Ibuse) Black Rain, by Masuji Ibuse, is about the very immediate, human consequences of the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It follows a small family of survivors, detailing what happened to them during the days of the bombing and what the effects are some years later. The book adopts a gentle, subtle tone, and yet it is not afraid to delve into very explicit and challenging topics related to the bombings. Bless Me, Ultima (Rudolfo Anaya contains a healthy dose of magical realism and is considered a staple of Chicano literature. It combines Spanish, Mexican, and Native American influences, showing openly the ways in which these forces within the protagonist's life come into conflict. Young Antonio is growing up in a world that leaves him with more questions about life and death, good and evil, and so on. These issues seem too big for his six-year-old mind, and yet he grapples with them valiantly through the end of the novel. Antonio has lots of questions surrounding his faith traditions. Brave New World (Aldous Huxley) In Brave New World, Aldous Huxley wrote this novel earlier than Orwell's 1984. Huxley balances utopian and dystopian interpretations of a world that is highly controlled, easily manipulated, and extremely dysfunctional, ready to fall apart at any provocation. There are insiders to this world, and each character views and interacts with the society in a different light. Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee (Dee Brown) Dee Brown covers a lot of historical ground in this book. In it, Brown describes the history of European Americans as they interact with (and slaughter) the Native Americans and abuses, as well as the unfortunate decline of a noble people trying to defend their established way of life. It's essential for students to understand this part of United States history. The Catcher in the Rye (J. D. Salinger centers around ideas including adolescent sexuality and relationships. The protagonist is constantly bouncing around from person, place to place, activity. to activity. Critics were greatly offended by Salinger's frank discussions of sexual matters and his generally very casual style. This book is an important read in part because of its direct relevance to struggling adolescents and the issues they face. The Crucible (Arthur Miller) Arthur Miller wrote this tragic play in the early 1950s. While it is somewhat loosely based on the Salem witch trials of 1692, and while it is likely intended as an allegory to McCarthy's rooting out of suspected Communists at the time of the play's writing, the issues it touches on are much more broadly applicable. This is an important dramatic work on how hysteria, cruelty, and ignorant gullibility destroy communities. Bonus: Studying The Crucible for school and struggling? Check out ourThe Crucible study guides here! There are lots of accusations of creepy stuff in The Crucible. The Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank) Anne Frank's published diary is different from a typical literary work. It's a true account of the life of one Jewish girl during the Holocaust, and, while Anne Frank wrote some passages with publication in mind, others she did not. When the book is available with all material included. Gaining some understanding of this horrific genocide is crucial to students Fahrenheit 451 (Ray Bradbury) Books are on trial in this astounding work by Ray Bradbury. Set in yet another dystopian future where firemen are employed to burn books have to offer. This novel is an ode to literacy, and, while it has its tragic moments, it ultimately leaves readers with a message of hope. Flowers for Algernon. The novel tells the story of a man considered mentally retarded who is selected for an intelligence-enhancing surgery. The book follows the effects, both positive and negative, that come from the sudden change in his I.Q. This is a moving read for students who wish to understand how intelligence plays into our humanity. For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf (Ntozake Shange) In For Colored Girls..., Ntozake Shange creates choreopoetry (poetry meant to be performed with movement and dance) that covers important themes of race, gender, abuse, and perseverance. It's largely a deep and dark poem, but it contains all sorts of symbolism. Frankenstein (Mary Shelley) First off, let's all be clear: as some will already know, Frankenstein is not a monster. Rather, the very human Victor Frankenstein is responsible for creating what we recognize as the monster from the story; the creature itself is nameless. Mary Shelley wrote this Gothic thriller in the early 1800s, and yet we remain fascinated by this tale of playing God and facing the consequences. It's an eerie tale with themes that run deep. The Grapes of Wrath (John Steinbeck) John Steinbeck) and the Dust Bowl in American history. It's a story of hope and despair, moving from one to the other and back again seamlessly throughout the novel. While loaded with biblical allusions, it is not heavy-handed with them, and the writing is often praised as realistic and beautiful. Great Expectations, by Charles Dickens, is a staple of English literature. It's one of his most autobiographical works; it tells the story of a young boy, orphaned and poor, who ultimately experiences a drastic change in his fortunes. In addition, he learns much about love, trust, and relationships in this coming-of-age novel. As the title suggests, the novel also contains discussions of hope, disappointment, and expectations. The Great Gatsby a novel that in many ways closely reflected his own experience. The decadence of the Jazz Age was, as is revealed in the novel, both enticing for many and revolting for some. The Great Gatsby follows the quest of a wealthy young man to win back the love of his life by extravagant displays of riches and social connections. As the plot builds to its climax, readers, along with Gatsby's simpler, humbler friend and neighbor, are left to ponder the passing of an era in American history. BONUS: Reading The Great Gatsby for school but finding it hard to keep track of all the characters? We have several study guides that might be able to help, including our guide to all the characters in The Great Gatsby. The Joy Luck Club (Amy Tan) Amy Tan's novel, The Joy Luck Club, deals with intergenerational and intercultural questions. Tan seeks to represent the Chinese-American experience while also for a total of sixteen stories that come together to complete this total work. Lord of the Flies (William Golding's Lord of the Flies speaks to the evil and degenerate potential that lurks within each human. It can be interpreted religiously, politically, provide state a group of schoolboys stranded on an island descend into grotesque savagery. It's a disturbing story, to be sure, but one that is important to be familiar with in a world where savage instinct too often presents itself today. The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit are not everyone's cup of tea, but they're hugely rewarding pleasure reading for too many fans to count. Tolkien's masterpieces are more than just pleasure reading, though; the trilogy covers major themes of the epic struggle between good and evil, the necessity of persevering through immensely difficult ordeals, and how to apply mercy. Tolkien asks major questions about those who are evil versus those who are misguided and what we should do when our paths intertwine with any such individuals. The Hobbit is lighter and more kid-focused, but still addresses important themes. The Odyssey is an epic poem nearly three thousand years old that's attributed to the blind poet Homer. It tells the story of a war hero's ten-year quest to return to his home, wife, and son. He encounters a number of varied setbacks along the way, and the trouble isn't over when he gets home. The Odyssey deals with human interactions with the gods, bringing up questions of righteousness, wrongdoing, and pride as well as ideas of faithfulness and patience Odysseus was a fan of the ladies. Oedipus Rex (Sophocles) This play by Greek dramatist Sophocles is about a man who inadvertently kills his father and marries his mother. It's dark subject matter, and nothing good comes of it, as you may well suspect. of pride. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Ken Kesey) Ken Kesey documents in this work the darkest side of mental health care as it existed in the book, nor is it all like that today, audiences of the novel are aghast that any care might even vaguely resemble the horrors discussed. Despite how disturbing the storyline is, it's important for readers to recognize the vulnerability of this too often overlooked segment of society. Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice follows a family with five daughters, all unwed, and all, due to English customs of the late 1700s and early 1800s, in need of wedding. Of the five daughters, Elizabeth is the focus of the novel, though the others are discussed aplenty. While marriage is one of the central ideas in the novel, there are plenty of other themes to be picked apart, including ones that touch on pride, prejudice, first impressions, love, misunderstanding, and manipulation. This is, all around, a classic piece of literature, and one with which to be familiar. Next up: one of my favorites, William Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet or Hamlet (William Shakespeare) William Shakespeare) William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet or Hamlet (William Shakespeare) William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet or Hamlet (William Shakespeare) William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet or Hamlet (William Shakespeare) William Shakespeare) William Shakespeare. Shakespeare's works, it's a particularly popular one to read in high school for a variety of reasons. For one thing, it deals explicitly with teenaged love, and, for another, it's a relatively simple plot that's nonetheless action-packed. It also opens with a shameless series of very witty dirty jokes, and such humor is scattered throughout the rest of the show. Then there's the thematic material, which includes obedience, fate, and rash decisions, among others. For those who don't wish to read about teenagers mooning for each other to the point of suicide, there's always Hamlet. This story follows a Danish prince whose father has died and whose mother has almost instantly married the father's brother. When Hamlet discovers, via an appearance of his father's ghost, that his uncle murdered his father, all sorts of interesting events ensue. There's madness (real and feigned), murder, suicide, treason, and a lot of waffling over the right course of action. As an added bonus, those who read Hamlet may wish to read Tom Stoppard's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. It follows the events of Hamlet from the perspective of two minor and typically much-maligned characters. It's also hilarious, if absolutely weird. Slaughterhouse-Five is a fictional account of events in some ways very similar to what the author himself experienced as a prisoner of war in WWII. He writes about the atrocities humans commit upon each other, and he also mixes in a number of other concerns, some heavy, some light, such as death, aliens, and the ability to see other points in time, past or future. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston has been much criticized over the course of its history, and yet it stands as one of the great classics of American literature. It tells the story of a black woman who is full of zest and passion and who is passed from man to man as she goes through life. With her first husband, she is absolutely miserable; with her second husband, it's more bearable, for a time; and with her third man, she finds happiness. The trials and tribulations she undergoes with all three make for an interesting examination of Janie. Same approach to life, though.) Things Fall Apart (Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart, readers encounter a complex and beautifully rendered examination of life with the Igbo tribe in Africa, both before and after the white man's interference. Okonkwo is the protagonist, and he goes through a number of difficulties that put him in the position of making distasteful decisions. Readers are left to wonder whether things are falling apart because that's simply the way of the world or whether different decisions could have kept them together. The inevitability of change is neatly demonstrated. To Kill a Mockingbird deals with elements of racism, courage, sympathy, understanding, and hope. It tells the story of a small town where a black man has been falsely accused of raping a white woman. The daughter of the lawyer defending the accused is the main protagonist, and another aspect of the story is her journey from bemused mockery to gentle understanding with regard to an eccentric man in the town. To Kill a Mockingbird rose to prominence during the Civil Rights Movement and remains as potent today as it ever was. The Ugly American (Eugene Burdick and William Lederer) The Ugly American by Burdick and Lederer is a denouncement of the American practice of sending insensitive diplomatic figures. It so impressed John F. Kennedy while he was a Democratic senator that he sent a copy to each and every one of his Senate colleagues. It can be an uncomfortable read, but a worthwhile one. Conclusion If you can't reace through these 30-odd books before you graduate high school, you'll be in a good shape, from a literary perspective. Even if you can't reace through these 30-odd books before you graduate high school, you'll be in a good shape, from a literary perspective. Even if you can't reace through these 30-odd books before you graduate high school, you'll be in a good shape, from a literary perspective. Even if you can't reace through these 30-odd books before you graduate high school, you'll be in a good shape, from a literary perspective. all of them, picking a few would not be a bad place to start. You might start with those that simply sound the most interesting to you, or you could look for themes in the books that relate to what you're learning in school. If you're studying McCarthyism, for instance, maybe try The Diary of a Young Girl. These stories are immensely powerful. Some are newer, having instantly won their place in the pantheon of classics, while others have proven themselves by withstanding the test of time. Readers will find that they resonate with some books more than others, and that's fine; the point is that all of these books have important messages to communicate, and I encourage readers to be open to finding out what those messages are. Open a book, and you'll find all sorts of messages! Usually not in bottles, though. What's Next? A lot of these books may be read or referenced in AP English Lit classes. Check out our guide to AP Literature for tips on preparing for the exam. If you're not sure whether to take AP English Language or AP English Literature, allow us to provide you with some thoughts on the topic. While we're on the topic of literature, why don't you take a moment to read some recommendations on which English classes you should take during your high school career? Are you both a reader and interested in becoming a doctor? Then you should definitely take a look at our list of books to read as a pre-med student. And as a reminder, if you decide to read The Great Gatsby or The Crucible, you can check out our analyses of each to help you along the way! Are you a bibliophile? If yes, you might have come across some wonderful high school literature books. You don't need to ponder over the list of books you should read before high school. This article will work as a guide to drive you through the suggestions will prove to be the best stress reliever. To ace your college life, you can read through these classics. Researchers have found that reading realistic narratives and fiction can help readers in developing a sense of honesty and empathy. It was also discovered that reading, which is insufficient without reading, which is also highlighted by Annie Proulx. She says, "You should write because you love the shape of stories and the creation of different words on a page. Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write." among children. Helps in improving communication skills. Tend to believe it increases vocabulary. It delays cognitive aging among people. Reading books empowers us to connect with others in a better way. Aids people who are suffering from sleeping disorders. Scientists have found that reading possesses a healing potential for people suffering from mental ailments. You might recall that in childhood your grandparents used to read short stories, scriptures, and newspapers to you. Oh, what could be the reason behind it, then? It was done so that your brain could imbibe it and could produce that information when needed. So, we are raised in such a way that reading becomes a part of our routine. Remember those Fairy Tales and Barbie stories that were read on Sundays? Hence, why shy away from highschool reading books? I have been into teaching for the past five years and have tutored students of different age groups. What I have noticed is: Students lack the knowledge and just crammed all the things. Even high school students admitted that they fake-read their chapters. content. The absence of comprehension necessitates the inclusion of fiction and classics in the curriculum. If not, teachers should mention popular high school books in the classroom or, at the very least, encourage pupils to read during reading programs like the Orton Gillingham Reading Program. Although books are supposedly for anybody who has a desire to learn, parents, teachers, and members of the school board occasionally disagree on what children shouldn't read. The outcome of the school board occasionally disagree on what children should and shouldn't read. highschool reading books. Do your friends call you by the name Bookworm? If yes, it is most likely that you might have come across these books in their high school reading list, it can be a pathway to their success. According to Maya Angelou, "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his needs, is good for him". Let's guide the readers on their quest to find the most amazing books and instill a passion for reading in their brains and hearts. Readers should be aware of the text features for better understanding. If you never heard the name of this novel, you must be living in a Stone Age period. Because it is one of the most widely celebrated romantic English novels. Published in 1813, "Pride and Prejudice" was a novel of manners and Austen's second novel. If you are a fan of Austen then you must include this novel among the high school reading books. It is Austen's satire on society and traditional stereotypical gender roles that portrayed women as objects of beauty with no rights. "Beauty with brains" was a derogatory phrase used to ridicule women. People often feel that beauty and intelligence can't go together. The novel, which is set in the Regency era, is about discovering a person's true goodness beneath their preconceptions and outward characteristics. The genuine portraval of its characters and their inner turmoil makes this great work comical and intriguing. The story revolves around the two main characters around th characters, and they fall in love with each other, setting aside all their pride and prejudices. It is one of the most loved novels by scholars and the public. The most popular novel with over 20 million copies sold. This novel was adapted into many movie and play adaptations. or library. Hard copies and Soft copies are accessible on Amazon and Flipkart. Its latest movie adaptation is available on Netflix and IMDb. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife. — Jane Austen, Pride, and Prejudice Add it to your reading list from here. Jane Eyre is a gothic novel written by Charlotte Bronte. It was published under the name "Currer Bell" on 19 October 1847. And is quite popular because it is a bildungsroman novel that embarks on the emotional and physical growth of its protagonist Jane. Bildungsroman novels are quite intriguing so they must be included in high school reading books. In the Victorian age, it was rare to find such a rare woman character. Bronte constructs her character with bold strokes, and it is considered one of the significant feminist works. The novel traces the journey of Jane in which she fights male chauvinism, ill-treatment from her aunt, resists all the temptations, struggles for money and love, and independence. Still, she kept trust in her own capabilities and did not give up on the tricks of love laid by Rochester. In the end, we are showcased with the ultimate woman character in the form of our protagonist. Jane becomes a rich, independent woman and on her own terms enters into wedlock with Rochester. This novel motivates women to be independent and strong. That is why it needs to be included in your highschool reading books. There are many concepts introduced in the novel "Individuality and Self Worth", "Concept of Self" are the two most significant ones. Some Insightful Information You can conveniently get hold of a hard copy from public libraries or bookshops. Hard copies and Soft copies are accessible on Amazon, Goodreads, and Flipkart. Its latest movie adaptation is available on Netflix, Youtube, and IMDb. One of the most famous lines from here One of Chinua Achebe's most well-known works, Things Fall Apart, was his first book and was released in 1958. It shows the life of Nigerians both before and after colonialism and after the arrival of the Europeans. The struggle between the cultures then you should definitely try to include this novel in your highschool reading books. It criticizes the inaccurate portrayal of Africans as uncivilized and undeveloped. Achebe attempts to portray the two causes that ruined the main character through Okonkwo. First, he was hollowed out by external influences, specifically the Westernization invasion. Second, negative inner forces like toxic masculinity, fear, and wrath. Why read this book then? You can view the effects of Westernisation from a distinctive angle thanks to Achebe's book. It gives you a chance to consider how cultural interaction and technological development have affected our modern world. In 1971, it was adapted into a movie. The main question it raises is where we really belong. In order to embrace modernization, are we losing our identity? This book should not be restricted to highschool reading books, but everyone should give it a read. Some Insightful Information You can easily get hold of a hard copy from public libraries or bookshops. Hard copies and Soft copies are accessible on Amazon, Goodreads, and Flipkart. Its latest movie adaptation is available on YouTube and IMDb. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won over our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together, and we have fallen apart". — Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart Add it to your reading list from here. Are you an admirer of Shakespeare and his work? If you have been, then you must have or must read this play of his. Even if you aren't his fan, you will become one after going through this play. In the past, you must have come across this popular soliloguy "To be or to be not". Oh! Now you learn it is from this very book. Collaborative strategic reading of this play interesting, try that out. The Tragedy of Hamlet was written between 1599 and 1601 and regarded as the longest play of his. This play was considered a masterpiece by many scholars because it had a simple and crisp plot of murder. He runs in a rage to find out the murderer of his father. Later, he discovers that his uncle Claudius had murdered his father and married his mother to take over the throne. Hamlet was filled with rage because he was the rightful heir to the throne. As the play progresses, he murders his Uncle to seek revenge. Some Insightful Information You can easily get hold of a hard copy from public libraries or bookshops. And from various Shakespeare societies ran online. Hardcopies and Soft Copies are accessible on Amazon, Goodreads, and Flipkart. Its latest iconic stage play was done by Boy Jones University which is available on their official YouTube Channel. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." — William Shakespeare, Hamlet Add it to your reading list from here. Beloved is a heart wrenching story of a slave who in order to save her children from slavery gets caught by slave catchers. Sethe considers slavery even worse than death, which is why she was forced by circumstances to kill her own newborn child. This novel was published in 1987 and set just after the American Civil War. The books you read in high school must include this in order to understand the struggles and exploitation of African Americans at the hands of whites. And to know that slavery is like bacteria to the American community. You will feel a chill in your bones when you read through the passages. And feel the grief and suffering of the characters. Some Insightful Information You can easily get a copy of the novel from public libraries or bookshops. Hardcopies and Soft Copies are accessible on Amazon, Goodreads, and Flipkart. Its latest movie adaptation is available on IMDb. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "Definitions belong to the definers, not the defined." — Toni Morrison, Beloved Add it to your reading list from here. There are books that provide you comfort, and there are some books that rip your heart out. This novel functions as ripping out your heart and will leave you vulnerable. The Color Purple is an epistolary masterpiece published in 1982 based on themes of suffering, love, and redemption. Walker's words are like a sweet melody to the ears, and often a cacophony of grief and mellowing down sorrows and emotions. You will be amazed at the magnificent depths of the novel, it is beautifully knitted by Walker. The book pedals through the sufferings, empowerment, and emancipation of black women face brutality and mental and physical torture at the hands of the males of their houses. It is important to be aware of the culture of your land, so this book could help you with that. Kindly give it a read! Some Insightful Information The Color Purple (1985) is one of the most popular African American movies based on the same name. Anyone can access it from IMDb. If you are looking for a hard copy, you can find it in any public library or a bookstore. You can purchase a hard and soft copy from Goodreads and Amazon. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "I'm pore, I'm black, I may be ugly and can't cook, a voice say to everything listening. But I'm here." — Alice Walker, The Color Purple Add it to your reading list from here. Published in 2003 by Riverhead Books, it is one of the first novels written by Afghan American Writer Khaled Hosseini, who is his servant's son. The themes of betrayal, love, friendship, family, alienation, and redemption echo throughout the book. It portrays the exodus of people and refugees running to parts of Pakistan and America. Then why should you include it in the high school reading list? Let me give you a handful of reasons for giving it a read. Here, the author depicts through his characters that we are imperfectly perfect. Everyone should learn to take disappointments. And nonetheless, the incidents in the books will crumble your soul and will captivate your heart. Some Insightful Information If you are looking for a hard copy, you can find it in any public library or a bookstore. You can purchase a hard and soft copy from Goodreads and Amazon. Its latest movie adaptation is available on IMDb. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "For you, a thousand times over" — Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner Add it to your reading list from here. If your highschool reading books do not include this classic, you need to ponder over it once again. It is a significant part of literature you will have to read now or later on so, why not now! And ace in your literature class. To Kill a Mockingbird was published in 1960 and instantly gained popularity among scholars. It dealt with the themes of racism, prejudice, courage, morality, coming of age and social justice. Which is quite significant to understand by today's students. This will help students to understand every issue critically. In the novel, the protagonist 'Scout' showcases the societal expectations that a woman is burdened with from the inception of childhood. She does not stick to gender roles and defies them. Harper beautifully narrated a strong woman character who has her own terms for living a life. Some Insightful Information If you are looking for a hard copy, you can find it in any public library or a bookstore. You can purchase a hard and soft copy from Goodreads and Amazon. Its latest movie adaptation is available on IMDb. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." — Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird Add it to your reading list from here. This book was published in 2011 in Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The book might seem boring at first, but as you delve deeper and uncover the layers of the book, you will find it fascinating and logical. It contains a brief history of the roots and growth of humans. The narration of the origin of mankind is quite reflective. Isn't it enough reasons why high school level books should inculcate it? It offers a humorous and satirical perspective on some urban myths that we take for granted in the 21st century. And this book is both an eye-opener and a thought-provoker for everyone who is conceited about the myths they hold dear. This will help you to fill your intellectual cauldron with precise information. Some Insightful Information If you are looking for a hard copy, you can find it in any public library or a bookstore. You can purchase a hard and soft copy from Goodreads and Amazon. Ridley Scott and Asif Kapadia are teaming up to adapt this into a movie. One of the most famous lines from the book is as follows: "There are no gods, no nations, no money and no human rights, except in our collective imagination." — Yuval Noah Harari, Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind Add it to your reading list from here. Published in 1945, Animal Farm is a beast fable, in the form of a satirical allegorical novella. It vocalizes the impacts of the Russian Revolution of 1917. The author puts forward a strong critique of Soviet communism and Stalinism in Russia. If you want to familiarize yourself with the movements of that time then you should definitely try to add this to your high school reading list. The novel revolves around the oppression of animals on the farm. They try to revolt against Mr. Jones, their master because of the mistreatment and not being paid enough for their hard labor. The animals are brutally shunned for their stand of revolting against their master. If you are someone who loves symbolism and indirect criticism as a high school student, you should definitely give a read to this novella. The main themes this novel revolves around are oppression, power can induce corruptibility, rebellion, betrayal, and history replicating itself.Some Insightful Information "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." This novel was published in 1925, it is a tragic love story of Gatsby and Daisy. It encircles around the main themes of wealth, class, idealism, the jazz age, human follies, man's struggle with time and fate, and the extravagant American dream. These themes are still relevant in the 21st century, and that's the reason it should be added to the high school reading list. This book is a wonderful literary masterpiece that is addicted to paint. It is intricate but masterfully crafted together. The author has given a ray of hope in the form of Gatsby, who is flawlessly flawed and a never-ending dreamer. If you are also a dreamer you should try to give it a read by inculcating this in your high school reading list. Some Insightful Information "He looked at her the way all women want to be looked at by a man." Your high school reading list. Some Insightful Information "He looked at her the way all women want to be looked at by a man." Your high school reading list. historical novel with magical layers you will unravel as you progress into the book. Many scholars say that this novel is hard to reading at your personal pace. It depicts the French Revolution and its impact. The primary themes of the novel are love, brutality, reign of terror, suppression, moral discourse, self-sacrifice, and idealism. The novel makes use of Victorian language which will wrap the readers in its magic and captivates their soul. Some Insightful Information"It was the worst of times, it was the worst of times, it was the worst of times a romance novel of historical fiction and was published in 1850. The primary themes which the story revolves around are repentance, dignity, sin, guilt, legalism, hypocrisy, and cruelty of patriarchal society. The main protagonist Hester Prynne is depicted as being in dire straits. The novel dramatizes her struggle to provide for her child in the face of a heartless community when she gives birth outside wedlock. In order to acquaint yourself from the past conditions of women you should include this novel in a high school reading list. Some Insightful Information "She had not known the weight until she felt the freedom." Crime and Punishment is one of the most famous thrilling and psychological novels by author Fyodor published in 1867. The significant themes that the novel deals with are fear, utilitarianism, free will, morality, anxiety, battles of will, the agony of the human mind, alienation from society, and controlling ideas. Then why give it a spot in popular high school books? There could be many reasons for it but most importantly it is an engaging blend of philosophy, politics, and religious commentary which makes it a masterpiece and essential to read. Crime and Punishment revolve around the murder committed by Raskolnikov, the protagonist. The author beautifully depicts his mental agony, highlighting human follies, horror, and guilt of his action, redemption, and salvation. No other cobweb of words can perfectly define the mastery work the author produced. Some Insightful Information "Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart." To conclude our list, let's just end it with one of the classic high school literature books. The Bell Jar is the only novel written by Sylvia Plath, published under the name of "Victoria Lucus" in 1963. She was quite ahead of her time in addressing the issue of mental illness in her novel. This is the main reason why everyone should inculcate this in high school reading list. The storyline encircles around the themes of depression, coming of age, the divide between mind and body, sanity, insanity, and suicide. It is a semi-autobiographical novel that displays the struggle of the protagonist Esther with identity, against society and mental illness. Some Insightful Information" If you expect nothing from somebody you are never disappointed." Did you begin reading? Or, still, searching for your reading glass? Whether you begin reading or not, after going through this article, you will definitely give them a read. There is no fixed age or time to begin reading, try them out and suggest your friend too. Try to incorporate the suggested readings into your high school reading list. I have found that many of my readers are persons with special needs as well. To ease their learning, their guardian can learn sign language or use the audio of these online books. Rise, Shine, and Enjoy Reading! We asked members of our community to share recently published novels they would love to have read in high school. Here are your top picks. Way back in 2016, we asked our community to share what they would consider essential reads for high school students. The final list of 20 recommended books was dominated by what many would consider the classics: John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, J. D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye, F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Shakespeare's Macbeth. For decades, these works have been required reading in classrooms across the country, but more recently educators like Lorena Germán and advocates for the #DisruptTexts movement—not to mention the millions of students who've come and gone during the era—have challenged the notion of a traditional canon, advocating for a more

"inclusive, representative, and equitable language arts curriculum.""There are problems with teaching only classics—the stories are overwhelmingly told from a white and/or male perspective, and more needs to be done to diversify that," writes eighth-grade English teacher Christina Torres. "In addition, there's merit in introducing our students to more recent literature."This year, we circled back and asked our community a version of the same question—What novels do you wish you could've read in high school?—but this time we specified that titles must have been published within the last decade. Hundreds of responses flooded in, and the contrast to six years ago was stark. Nominations were diverse, representing a broad range of topics, themes, genres, and author identities, as well as a wide variety of characters and experiences—queer protagonists and experiences—queer protagonists and prota clear standout, earning the most votes and thus the number one spot on our list. Some authors were multiple winners: Jason Reynolds's Long Way Down and All American Boys made the cut, and Nic Stone's Dear Martin and its sequel Dear Justyce were both favorites, but we selected only one for inclusion in the top 25. While fiction titles represent the lion's share of the final list, a number of memoirs and autobiographies made the grade, including Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and late-night host Trevor Noah's Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood.1. The Hate U GiveAngie Thomas's emotionally wrenching debut novel finds Starr, an African American teen, torn between the affluent, predominantly white school she attends and the impoverished neighborhood where she stands. Primary themes of interest to high school students: identity, race and racial injustice, grief and loss, activism.2. Educated: A MemoirTara Westover's story of growing up alongside—and eventually growing beyond—her decidedly iconoclastic family of Mormon survivalists in rural Idaho is an autobiographical paean to the transformative power of education. Primary themes of interest to high school students: autonomy, family dynamics, learning and education, loneliness and isolation.3. Dear MartinAuthor Nic Stone drops readers deep into the life of her 17-year-old main character, Justyce, who suddenly finds himself on the wrong side of an unprovoked, racially charged encounter with a police officer. Primary themes of interest to high school students: privilege, friendship, race and racial injustice, discrimination, the criminal justice system.4. The Poet XElizabeth Acevedo's National Book Award-winning novel-in-verse tells the story of Xiomara Batista, a 15-year-old Dominican-American girl living in Harlem who discovers that slam poetry unlocks answers to guestions about her religion, her mother, and her identity and greater purpose in life. Primary themes of interest to high school students: sexuality, self-acceptance, family dynamics.5. Long Way DownJason Reynolds, author of Ghost and Ain't Burned All the Bright, thrusts readers inside an elevator alongside 15-year-old protagonist Will Hollomon, who has about 60 seconds to make one of the hardest decisions of his life. Primary themes of interest to high school students: justice, grief and loss, family dynamics.6. Refugee Children—each living in separate parts of the world during different time periods, from Nazi Germany to Syria in 2015—fight to escape the violence of their home countries in Alan Gratz's timely and moving work of historical fiction. Primary themes of interest to high school students: warfare, family dynamics, trauma, the experiences of refugees.7. HomegoingThe Ghanaian American novelist Yaa Gyasi traces the impact of the Gold Coast's slave trade on the lives of two African stepsisters and several generations of their descendants. Primary themes of interest to high school students: slavery and human rights, identity, race and racial injustice, family dynamics, oppression, trauma.8. Firekeeper's DaughterWitnessing a murder launches Angeline Boulley's protagonist Daunis—a Native teen torn between her white and Ojibwe culture—into an FBI investigation where she must go undercover in search of the truth. Primary themes of interest to high school students: family dynamics, addiction, risk-taking, authority.9. All The Light We Cannot SeeSet during World War II, this is Anthony Doerr's Pulitzer Prize-winning tale of two teenagers—a blind French girl on the run and a German boy forced to join the Nazi army—whose separate lives ultimately converge. Primary themes of interest to high school students: warfare, grief and loss, disability, power and conformity.10. BeartownAuthor Fredrik Backman investigates the ripple effects of a sexual assault, committed by the star athlete, on a small hockey town in rural Sweden. Primary themes of interest to high school students: justice, trauma, power and conformity.11. I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican DaughterA tragic accident causes Erika Sánchez's main character, Julia, to reflect on the perceived image of her "perfect" sister, Olga—as well as the secrets she may have been hiding. Primary themes of interest to high school students: grief and loss, perfectionism, mental health, sexuality, identity.12. Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and RedemptionBryan Stevenson's memoir details his work at the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit organization providing legal counsel to the wrongfully convicted, as well as those without the funds for effective representation. Primary themes of interest to high school students: the criminal justice system, race and racial injustice, poverty, trauma.13. Patron Saints of NothingIn Randy Ribay's National Book Award finalist, 17-year-old Jay Requero leaves the University of Michigan and returns to his extended family in the Philippines when he learns that his cousin was recently murdered there—all the while secretly planning to investigate the crime. Primary themes of interest to high school students: grief and loss, culture and identity, the criminal justice.14. The Invention of WingsSet in the antebellum South, a white girl of means, and Handful, a slave gifted to Sarah on her birthday. Primary themes of interest to high school students: friendship, slavery and human rights, race, privilege.15. The Midnight LibraryWhat if you could read your way into another story of your life? In Matt Haig's charming fantasy novel, 35-year-old Nora Seed peruses the books in an infinite library and discovers that each magical volume gives her a glimpse into a life she might have led. Primary themes of interest to high school students: identity and purpose, mental health, fantasy.16. The Nickel BoysIn this Pulitzer Prize winner, Colson Whitehead's main character, Elwood Curtis, experiences firsthand the horrors of a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy—based on the real-life Dozier School for Boys, a now-closed reform school in Florida with a 111-year history of abusing students. Primary themes of interest to high school students: activism, trauma, abuse, race and racial injustice.17. The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death RowConvicted of a crime he did not commit, Anthony Ray Hinton relates the story of his 30 years on death row. Cowritten with Lara Love Hardin, the memoir reveals not only how he ultimately found his way to joy. Primary themes of interest to high school students: race and racial injustice, redemption, innocence and guilt, the criminal justice system.18. The Tattooist of AuschwitzInspired by true events, this is Heather Morris's heart-wrenching World War II tale about Lale Sokolov, a Jewish man who-forced to work at Auschwitz as a serial number tattooist—falls in love with an imprisoned woman as she waits to be branded. Primary themes of interest to high school students: warfare, race and racial injustice, the power of love.19. Born a Crime: Stories from a South African ChildhoodComedian and political commentator Trevor Noah's memoir mines his experiences as a mixed-race child in apartheid South African—a period during which the Immorality Act of 1927 outlawed interracial relationships, ostensibly making Noah's very existence a crime. Primary themes of interest to high school students: identity and purpose, race and racial injustice, oppression.20. I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the TalibanWritten by the world's youngest Nobel Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai's memoir tells the story of her fight for the rights of young girls and women in Pakistan—despite an assassination attempt that gravely wounded her in 2012, when she was only 15 years old. Primary themes of interest to high school students: activism, women's rights, learning and education.21. The Marrow ThievesCherie Dimaline's book is a dystopian vision of a bleak, postapocalyptic world in which humans have lost the ability to dream—except for North America's Indigenous population, who are hunted for their bone marrow, which holds the key to a cure. Primary themes of interest to high school students: trauma, the climate crisis, family dynamics, oppression.22. Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the UniverseIn this novel set in 1987, author Benjamin Alire Sáenz traces the story of two Mexican American boys, Aristotle and Dante, who could not be more different but form a bond that makes them confidants—and gives them the courage to share life-changing secrets. Primary themes of interest to high school students: identity and purpose, sexuality, selfacceptance, trauma.23. Sing, Unburied, Sing: A NovelJesmyn Ward's dark but lyrical tale follows a Mississippi family on a road trip haunted by ghosts of the past and present. Primary themes of interest to high school students: race and racial injustice, identity and belonging, mortality.24. The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their LivesIn this journalistic piece of nonfiction, author Dashka Slater reveals the complexities of what transpired between two teenagers on a bus in Oakland, California—Sasha and Richard—and the aftermath that ultimately transformed two families. Primary themes of interest to high school students: gender and sexuality, race, discrimination, the criminal justice system. 25. The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered PlanetAdapted from his podcast of the same name, John Green's humorous collection of 44 essays covers topics ranging from the computer-generated velociraptors in the movie Jurassic Park and sunsets to air conditioners and penguins—rating them all on a five-star scale. Primary themes of interest to high school students: the human condition, mental health, humor and absurdity, the climate crisis.LiteracyEnglish Language Arts9-12 High School