
Great Books List

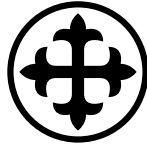
A guide to classic literature for youth of all ages

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CHARLEMAGNE INSTITUTE

DEFENDING AND ADVANCING WESTERN CIVILIZATION



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Great Books, The Wisdom of the Past

Dear Friends,

Classical education has burst on the scene in recent years as newbie in the panoply of education options. In reality, it is nothing new, but simply a resurrected discovery of a path to successful education.

One of the unique elements of classical education lies in the great works of history and literature it teaches. Once known and actively studied throughout Western Civilization, these works have largely been forgotten or ignored by modern education methods – to our detriment.

A few years ago, while diving into research about classical education, I was tasked with examining what students in America’s classical schools were reading. This task became a treasure hunt as I first sought to find classical schools, both public and private, and then sought to uncover the reading materials they used for each grade. The resulting list was mammoth. We pared it down to feature the top 50 works for various age groups in kindergarten through 12th grade.

In the last few years, this list has developed a reach that I never imagined. I’ve received reports of parents using it when perusing book fairs, searching for good books to give their little ones, while others hang it on their refrigerator, using it as a handy checklist as their children grow in wisdom and knowledge.

But it’s not just for children. I, too, keep a copy of this list in my desk, using it to make the overwhelming task of choosing what to read next a little easier. Like many adults, I missed reading a number of these works as a student. Yet with this systematic checklist, I’m able to direct my energies and get down to business catching up on the classic works I failed to read.

If you, like myself, want to defend and advance Western Civilization and train our children to do the same, then we need to feed ourselves with a steady diet of truth and ideas. I hope you will join me in tackling the great works of the past!

Sincerely,



Annie Holmquist, Editor
Intellectual Takeout

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Kindergarten to Third Grade

- 1. *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White
- 2. *The Courage of Sarah Noble*, Alice Dalgliesh
- 3. *The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit*, Beatrix Potter
- 4. *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Margery Williams
- 5. *Sarah, Plain & Tall*, Patricia MacLachlan
- 6. *Little House in the Big Woods*, Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 7. *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis
- 8. *Frog & Toad Are Friends*, Arnold Lobel
- 9. *Caps for Sale*, Esphyr Slobodkina
- 10. *Madeline* (and other books in series), Ludwig Bemelmans
- 11. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, Richard & Florence Atwater
- 12. *Homer Price*, Robert McCloskey
- 13. *Little Bear*, Else Holmelund Minarik
- 14. *The Boxcar Children*, Gertrude Chandler Warner
- 15. *Curious George*, H.A. Rey
- 16. *Amelia Bedelia*, Peggy Parish
- 17. *Aesop's Fables*, S.A. Handford
- 18. *Blueberries for Sal*, Robert McCloskey
- 19. *Frog & Toad Together*, Arnold Lobel
- 20. *Bears on Hemlock Mountain*, Alice Dalgliesh
- 21. *Pinochio*, Carlo Collodi
- 22. *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, Edgar & Ingri D'Aulaire
- 23. *Detectives in Togas*, Henry Winterfield
- 24. *Winnie the Pooh*, A.A. Milne
- 25. *Make Way for Ducklings*, Robert McCloskey
- 26. *Corduroy*, Don Freeman
- 27. *Ox Cart Man*, Donald Hall
- 28. *The Emperor's New Clothes*, Hans Christian Andersen, adap. Val Biro
- 29. *Tut's Mummy*, Judy Donnelly
- 30. *Little Bear's Visit*, Else Holmelund Minarik
- 31. *Stone Soup*, Marcia Brown
- 32. *Nate the Great*, Marjorie Sharmat
- 33. *Little House on the Prairie*, Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 34. *Stuart Little*, E.B. White
- 35. *Henry & Mudge*, Cynthia Rylant
- 36. *Misty of Chincoteague*, Marguerite Henry
- 37. *Billy & Blaze*, C.W. Anderson
- 38. *Dr. De Soto*, William Stieg
- 39. *The Ugly Duckling*, Hans Christian Andersen
- 40. *New Coat for Anna*, Harriet Ziefert
- 41. *The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame
- 42. *The Story about Ping*, Marjorie Flack
- 43. *Pompeii... Buried Alive!*, Edith Kunhardt Davis
- 44. *Black Ships Before Troy*, Rosemary Sutcliff
- 45. *Miss Nelson Is Missing!*, James Marshall
- 46. *The Little Engine That Could*, Watty Piper
- 47. *The Biggest Bear*, Lynd Ward
- 48. *The Hundred Dresses*, Eleanor Estes
- 49. *Magic Fish*, Freya Littledale
- 50. *The Mouse & the Motorcycle*, Beverly Cleary



Fourth to Sixth Grade

- 1. *Robin Hood*, Roger Lancelyn Green, E. Charles Vivian, Neil Philip, Howard Pyle
- 2. *Johnny Tremain*, Esther Forbes
- 3. *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson
- 4. *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- 5. *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls
- 6. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain
- 7. *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens
- 8. *The Door in the Wall*, Marguerite De Angeli
- 9. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Elizabeth George Speare
- 10. *The Bronze Bow*, Elizabeth George Speare
- 11. *A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeleine L'Engle
- 12. *The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson Burnett
- 13. *Tales from Shakespeare*, Charles & Mary Lamb
- 14. *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenweiler*, E.L. Konigsburg
- 15. *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London
- 16. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott
- 17. *Carry on Mr. Bowditch*, Jean Lee Latham
- 18. *Sign of the Beaver*, Elizabeth George Speare
- 19. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, C.S. Lewis
- 20. *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom
- 21. *Tuck Everlasting*, Natalie Babbitt
- 22. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor
- 23. *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis
- 24. *Adam of the Road*, Elizabeth Gray
- 25. *Old Yeller*, Fred Gipson
- 26. *The Swiss Family Robinson*, Johann David Wyss
- 27. *King Arthur & the Knights of His Round Table*, Roger Lancelyn Green
- 28. *Anne of Green Gables*, Lucy Maud Montgomery
- 29. *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Jules Feiffer
- 30. *Across Five Aprils*, Iren Hunt
- 31. *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, Roald Dahl
- 32. *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel DeFoe
- 33. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Scott O'Dell
- 34. *The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling
- 35. *Dangerous Journey: The Story of Pilgrim's Progress*, Oliver Hunkin
- 36. *Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of NIMH*, Robert C. O'Brien
- 37. *Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry
- 38. *My Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George
- 39. *Prince Caspian*, C.S. Lewis
- 40. *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare
- 41. *Amos Fortune*, Elizabeth Yates
- 42. *The Silver Chair*, C.S. Lewis
- 43. *Cricket in Times Square*, George Selden
- 44. *The Magician's Nephew*, C.S. Lewis
- 45. *Caddie Woodlawn*, Carol Ryrie Brink
- 46. *Heidi*, Johanna Spyri
- 47. *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift
- 48. *Beowulf*, trans. Frederick Rebsamen
- 49. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Washington Irving
- 50. *Animal Farm*, George Orwell



Seventh to Eighth Grade

- 1. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain
- 2. *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare
- 3. *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- 4. *Beowulf*, trans. Rosemary Sutcliff & Seamus Heaney
- 5. *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- 6. *Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer
- 7. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
- 8. *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane
- 9. *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London
- 10. *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- 11. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare
- 12. *Romeo & Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- 13. *The Odyssey*, Homer
- 14. *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis
- 15. *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson
- 16. *The Divine Comedy*, Dante Alighieri
- 17. *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens
- 18. *The Aeneid*, Virgil, trans. Penelope Lively
- 19. *Across Five Aprils*, Irene Hunt
- 20. *King Arthur & His Knights of the Round Table*, Roger Lancelyn Green & Howard Pyle
- 21. *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- 22. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
- 23. *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens
- 24. *Johnny Tremain*, Esther Forbes
- 25. *Diary of Anne Frank*, Anne Frank
- 26. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Emma Orczy
- 27. *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, Howard Pyle
- 28. *The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- 29. *Henry V*, William Shakespeare
- 30. *The Iliad*, Homer
- 31. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe
- 32. *The Gift of the Magi*, O. Henry
- 33. *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe
- 34. *Confessions*, St. Augustine of Hippo
- 35. *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson
- 36. *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Edmond Rostrand
- 37. *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan
- 38. *The Song of Roland*
- 39. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
- 40. *The Merchant of Venice*, William Shakespeare
- 41. *Tales from Shakespeare*, Charles & Mary Lamb
- 42. *Mythology*, Edith Hamilton
- 43. *Old Man & the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway
- 44. *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom
- 45. *Epic of Gilgamesh*
- 46. *Twelfth Night*, William Shakespeare
- 47. *Out of the Silent Planet*, C.S. Lewis
- 48. *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury
- 49. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott
- 50. *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens



Ninth Grade

- 1. *The Odyssey*, Homer
- 2. *The Iliad*, Homer
- 3. *The Aeneid*, Virgil
- 4. *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare
- 5. *The Federalist Papers*, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, & John Jay
- 6. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 7. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
- 8. *Theban Plays: Antigone, Oedipus the King, & Oedipus at Colonus*, Sophocles
- 9. *The Old Man & the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway
- 10. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- 11. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
- 12. *Oresteia (Oresteia trilogy)*, Aeschylus
- 13. *Beowulf*
- 14. *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane
- 15. *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Frederick Douglass
- 16. *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan
- 17. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe
- 18. *The Histories*, Herodotus
- 19. *My Antonia*, Willa Cather
- 20. *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels
- 21. *Romeo & Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- 22. *Greek Lives (and Roman Lives) or Plutarch's Lives*, Plutarch
- 23. *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau
- 24. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
- 25. *The Social Contract*, Jean Jacques Rousseau
- 26. *Of Plymouth Plantation*, William Bradford
- 27. *The Anti-Federalist Papers*, Samuel Bryan et al.
- 28. *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
- 29. *Civil Disobedience*, Henry David Thoreau
- 30. *Pride & Prejudice*, Jane Austen
- 31. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Edmund Burke
- 32. *1984*, George Orwell
- 33. *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler
- 34. *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 35. *Till We Have Faces*, C.S. Lewis
- 36. *Abraham Lincoln: Speeches & Writings*, Abraham Lincoln
- 37. *The Westminster Confession of Faith*
- 38. *Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer
- 39. *The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo*, Plato
- 40. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*
- 41. *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder
- 42. *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- 43. *The Divine Comedy* (particularly *Inferno*), Dante Alighieri
- 44. *Republic*, Plato
- 45. *Theogony*, Hesiod
- 46. *On Poetics*, Aristotle
- 47. *The History of Rome*, Livy
- 48. *The Twelve Caesars*, Suetonius
- 49. *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville
- 50. *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift



Tenth Grade

- 1. *The Divine Comedy* (particularly *Inferno*), Dante Alighieri
- 2. *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer
- 3. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
- 4. *The Aeneid*, Virgil
- 5. *Pride & Prejudice*, Jane Austen
- 6. *Beowulf*
- 7. *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- 8. *Confessions*, St. Augustine of Hippo
- 9. *The Iliad*, Homer
- 10. *Henry V*, William Shakespeare
- 11. *The Song of Roland*, trans. Dorothy Sayers
- 12. *Annals*, Tacitus
- 13. *The Prince*, Niccolò Machiavelli
- 14. *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight*
- 15. *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels
- 16. *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare
- 17. *Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius
- 18. *Crime & Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- 19. *Republic*, Plato
- 20. *Essay on the Origin of Inequality*, Jean Jacques Rousseau
- 21. *Selected Works*, Cicero
- 22. *The War with Hannibal*, Livy
- 23. *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
- 24. *The Odyssey*, Homer
- 25. *Church History*, Eusebius
- 26. *The Essential Works/Writings*, Titus Flavius Josephus
- 27. *The Rule of St. Benedict*, Benedict of Nursia
- 28. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Edmund Burke
- 29. *Leviathan*, Thomas Hobbes
- 30. *The Landmark Thucydides*, Thucydides
- 31. *The Bacchae & Other Plays*, Euripides
- 32. *Lysistrata & Other Plays*, Aristophanes
- 33. *Introduction to Aristotle*, Richard McKeon
- 34. *The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha*
- 35. *Euclid's Elements*, Euclid
- 36. *On the Nature of Things*, Lucretius
- 37. *Eclogues & Georgics*, Virgil
- 38. *The Apostolic Fathers*, ed. J.B. Lightfoot
- 39. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- 40. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare
- 41. *Utopia*, Thomas More
- 42. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
- 43. *Paradise Lost*, John Milton
- 44. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 45. *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- 46. *Morte d' Arthur*, Thomas Malory
- 47. *Merchant of Venice*, William Shakespeare
- 48. *The Faerie Queene*, Edmund Spenser
- 49. *Antony & Cleopatra*, William Shakespeare
- 50. *On the Incarnation*, Athanasius of Alexandria



Eleventh Grade

- 1. *Pride & Prejudice*, Jane Austen
- 2. *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare
- 3. *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- 4. *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 5. *The Divine Comedy* (particularly *Inferno*), Dante Alighieri
- 6. *Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer
- 7. *The Iliad*, Homer
- 8. *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle
- 9. *Republic*, Plato
- 10. *The Odyssey*, Homer
- 11. *The Prince*, Niccolò Machiavelli
- 12. *The City of God*, St. Augustine of Hippo
- 13. *Romeo & Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- 14. *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Boethius
- 15. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 16. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
- 17. *Paradise Lost*, John Milton
- 18. *Rhetoric*, Aristotle
- 19. *Don Quixote*, Miguel de Cervantes
- 20. *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides
- 21. *Gorgias*, Plato
- 22. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
- 23. *Poetics*, Aristotle
- 24. *The Aeneid*, Virgil
- 25. *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan
- 26. *Theban Plays*, Sophocles
- 27. *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad
- 28. *Fierce Wars & Faithful Loves*, Edmund Spenser
- 29. *Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings/Works*
- 30. *Oresteia*, Aeschylus
- 31. *Meno*, Plato
- 32. *Beowulf*
- 33. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe
- 34. *The Social Contract*, Jean Jacques Rousseau
- 35. *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift
- 36. *Two Lives of Charlemagne*, Einhard & Monk of Saint Gall
- 37. *Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas*, Thomas Aquinas
- 38. *The Praise of Folly*, Desiderius Erasmus
- 39. *The Lives of Thomas Becket*, Michael Staunton
- 40. *Confessions*, St. Augustine of Hippo
- 41. *The Federalist Papers*, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay
- 42. *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels
- 43. *Othello*, William Shakespeare
- 44. *Henry V*, William Shakespeare
- 45. *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley
- 46. *King Lear*, William Shakespeare
- 47. *1984*, George Orwell
- 48. *The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo*, Plato
- 49. *Idylls of the King*, Alfred Tennyson
- 50. *Chronicle of the Kings*, William of Malmesbury



Twelfth Grade

- 1. *Paradise Lost & Other Poems*, John Milton
- 2. *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley
- 3. *Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- 4. *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville
- 5. *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare
- 6. *The Divine Comedy* (particularly *Inferno*), Dante Alighieri
- 7. *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith
- 8. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
- 9. *King Lear*, William Shakespeare
- 10. *Discourse on Method & Meditations, Objections, & Replies*, René Descartes
- 11. *1984*, George Orwell
- 12. *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 13. *The Federalist Papers*, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay
- 14. *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville
- 15. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- 16. *The Aeneid*, Virgil
- 17. *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- 18. *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad
- 19. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 20. *Confessions*, St. Augustine of Hippo
- 21. *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels
- 22. *Leviathan*, Thomas Hobbes
- 23. *The Stranger*, Albert Camus
- 24. *Crime & Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- 25. *Emma*, Jane Austen
- 26. *The Pensées*, Blaise Pascal
- 27. *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*, Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 28. *Beyond Good & Evil*, Friedrich Nietzsche
- 29. *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Remarque
- 30. *Social Contract*, Jean Jacques Rousseau
- 31. *Treatise on Law, Morality, & Politics*, Thomas Aquinas
- 32. *Reason in History*, G.W.F. Hegel
- 33. *The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway
- 34. *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe
- 35. *Origin & Principles of the American Revolution*, Friedrich von Gentz
- 36. *Citizen Soldiers*, Stephen Ambrose
- 37. *Othello*, William Shakespeare
- 38. *Orthodoxy*, G.K. Chesterton
- 39. *Second Treatise on Government*, John Locke
- 40. *On Liberty*, John Stuart Mill
- 41. *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck
- 42. *The Old Man & the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway
- 43. *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis
- 44. *Beowulf*, trans. Seamus Heaney
- 45. *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
- 46. *The Prince*, Niccolò Machiavelli
- 47. *Parker's Back*, Flannery O'Connor
- 48. *U.S. Constitution*
- 49. *Pride & Prejudice*, Jane Austen
- 50. *Notes from the Underground*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

