

## Recommended Reading for AP Literature & Composition

Titles from Free Response Questions\*

*Adapted from an original list by Norma J. Wilkerson.*

Works referred to on the AP Literature exams since 1971 (specific years in parentheses).

### A

*Absalom, Absalom* by William Faulkner (76, 00)  
*Adam Bede* by George Eliot (06)  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (80, 82, 85, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99, 05, 06, 07, 08)  
*The Aeneid* by Virgil (06)  
*Agnes of God* by John Pielmeier (00)  
*The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton (97, 02, 03, 08)  
*Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood (00, 04, 08)  
*All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren (00, 02, 04, 07, 08)  
*All My Sons* by Arthur Miller (85, 90)  
*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy (95, 96, 06, 07, 08)  
*America is in the Heart* by Carlos Bulosan (95)  
*An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser (81, 82, 95, 03)  
*The American* by Henry James (05, 07)  
*Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy (80, 91, 99, 03, 04, 06, 08)  
*Another Country* by James Baldwin (95)  
*Antigone* by Sophocles (79, 80, 90, 94, 99, 03, 05)  
*Anthony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare (80, 91)  
*Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* by Mordecai Richler (94)  
*Armies of the Night* by Norman Mailer (76)  
*As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner (78, 89, 90, 94, 01, 04, 06, 07)  
*As You Like It* by William Shakespeare (92 05. 06)  
*Atonement* by Ian McEwan (07)  
*Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by James Weldon Johnson (02, 05)  
*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin (87, 88, 91, 92, 95, 97, 99, 02, 04, 07)

### B

"The Bear" by William Faulkner (94, 06)  
*Beloved* by Toni Morrison (90, 99, 01, 03, 05, 07)  
*A Bend in the River* by V. S. Naipaul (03)  
*Benito Cereno* by Herman Melville (89)  
*Billy Budd* by Herman Melville (79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 99, 02, 04, 05, 07, 08)  
*The Birthday Party* by Harold Pinter (89, 97)  
*Black Boy* by Richard Wright (06, 08)

*Bleak House* by Charles Dickens (94, 00, 04)  
*Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya (94, 96, 97, 99, 04, 05, 06, 08)  
*The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood (07)  
*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison (95, 08)  
*Bone: A Novel* by Fae M. Ng (03)  
*The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan (06, 07)  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (89, 05)  
*Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene (79)  
*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevski (90, 08)

## C

*Candida* by George Bernard Shaw (80)  
*Candide* by Voltaire (80, 86, 87, 91, 95, 96, 04, 06)  
*The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (06)  
*The Caretaker* by Harold Pinter (85)  
*Catch-22* by Joseph Heller (82, 85, 87, 89, 94, 01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08)  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger (01, 08)  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams (00)  
*Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood (94, 08)  
*The Centaur* by John Updike (81)  
*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko (94, 96, 97, 99, 01, 03, 05, 06, 07)  
*The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov (71, 77, 06, 07)  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok (08)  
"Civil Disobedience" by Henry David Thoreau (76)  
*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier (06, 08)  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 05, 08)  
*Coming Through Slaughter* by Michael Ondaatje (01)  
*Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton (85, 87, 91, 95, 96, 07)  
*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevski (76, 79, 80, 82, 88, 96, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05)  
"The Crisis" by Thomas Paine (76)  
*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (71, 83, 86, 89, 04, 05)

## D

*Daisy Miller* by Henry James (97, 03)  
*Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel (01)  
*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens (78, 83, 06)  
"The Dead" by James Joyce (97)  
*The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy (86)  
*Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller (86, 88, 94, 03, 04, 05, 07)  
*Delta Wedding* by Eudora Welty (97)  
*Desire under the Elms* by Eugene O'Neill (81)  
*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Anne Tyler (97)  
*The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri (06)

*The Diviners* by Margaret Laurence (95)  
*Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe (79, 86, 99, 04)  
*A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen (71, 83, 87, 88, 95, 05)  
*The Dollmaker* by Harriet Arnot (91)  
*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes (01, 04, 06, 08)  
*Dreaming in Cuban* by Cristina Garcia (03)  
*Dutchman* by Amiri Baraka/Leroi Jones (03, 06)

## E

*East of Eden* by John Steinbeck (06)  
*Emma* by Jane Austen (96, 08)  
*An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen (76, 80, 87, 99, 01, 07)  
*Equus* by Peter Shaffer (92, 99, 00, 01, 08)  
*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton (80, 85, 03, 05, 06, 07)  
*The Eumenides* by Aeschylus (in *The Orestia*) (96)

## F

*The Fall* by Albert Camus (81)  
*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway (99, 04)  
*The Father* by August Strindberg (01)  
*Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev (90)  
*Faust* by Johann Goethe (02, 03)  
*The Federalist* by Alexander Hamilton (76)  
*Fences* by August Wilson (02, 03, 05)  
*A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry (03)  
*Fifth Business* by Robertson Davis (00, 07)  
*The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud (07)  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway (03, 06)  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (89, 00, 03, 06, 08)

## G

*A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest Gaines (00)  
*A Gesture Life* by Chang-Rae Lee (04, 05)  
*Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen (00, 04)  
*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams (71, 90, 94, 97, 99, 02, 08)  
*Going After Cacciato* by Tim O'Brien (01, 06)  
*The Good Soldier* by Ford Maddox Ford (00)  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (95, 03, 06)  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (79, 80, 88, 89, 92, 95, 96, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08)  
*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (82, 83, 88, 91, 92, 97, 00, 02, 04, 05, 07)  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin (83, 88, 90, 05)  
*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift (87, 89, 01, 04, 06)

## H

*The Hairy Ape* by Eugene O'Neill (89)  
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (88, 94, 97, 99, 00)  
*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (03)  
*Hard Times* by Charles Dickens (87, 90)  
*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (71, 76, 91, 94, 96, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 06)  
*The Heart of the Matter* by Graham Greene (71)  
*Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen (79, 92, 00, 02, 03, 05)  
*Henry IV, Parts I and II* by William Shakespeare (80, 90, 08)  
*Henry V* by William Shakespeare (02)  
*A High Wind in Jamaica* by Richard Hughes (08)  
*The Homecoming* by Harold Pinter (78, 90)  
*House Made of Dawn* by N Scott Momaday (95, 06)  
*The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton (04, 07)  
*The House of Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (89)  
*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (08)

## I

*The Iliad* by Homer (80)  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde (06)  
*In the Lake of the Woods* by Tim O'Brien (00)  
*In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez (05)  
*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08)

## J

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (78, 79, 80, 88, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 00, 05, 07, 08)  
*Jasmine* by Bharati Mukherjee (99)  
*J.B.* by Archibald MacLeish (81, 94)  
*Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson (00, 04)  
*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (97, 03)  
*Joseph Andrews* by Henry Fielding (99)  
*Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy (71, 76, 80, 85, 87, 95, 04)  
*Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare (82, 97, 05, 07)  
*The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair (77, 78, 82, 88, 89, 90, 96)

## K

*Kafka on the Shore* by Haruki Murakami (08)  
*King Lear* by William Shakespeare (77, 78, 82, 88, 89, 90, 96, 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 08)  
*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (07, 08)

## L

*A Lesson before Dying* by Ernest Gaines (99)  
*Letters from an American Farmer* by de Crevecoeur (76)  
*Light in August* by William Faulkner (71, 79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 95, 99, 03, 06)  
*The Little Foxes* by Lillian Hellman (85, 90)

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott (08)  
*Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill (90, 03, 07)  
*Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad (77, 78, 82, 86, 00, 03, 07)  
*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (85, 08)  
*The Loved One* by Evelyn Waugh (89)  
*Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich (95)  
"Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T. S. Eliot (85)  
*Lysistrata* by Aristophanes (87)

## M

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (83, 99, 03, 05)  
*Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert (80, 85, 04, 05, 06)  
*Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis (87)  
*Major Barbara* by George Bernard Shaw (79, 96, 04, 07)  
*Man and Superman* by George Bernard Shaw (81)  
*Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen (03, 06)  
*Master Harold...and the Boys* by Athol Fugard (03, 08)  
*The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy (94, 99, 00, 02, 07)  
*M. Butterfly* by David Henry Wang (95)  
*Medea* by Euripides (82, 92, 95, 01, 03)  
*The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers (97, 08)  
*The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare (85, 91, 95, 02, 03)  
*Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka (78, 89)  
*Middlemarch* by George Eliot (95, 04, 05, 07)  
*Middle Passage* by V. S. Naipaul (06)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare (06)  
*The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot (90, 92, 04)  
*The Misanthrope* by Moliere (08)  
*Miss Lonelyhearts* by Nathanael West (89)  
*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville (76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 89, 94, 96, 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07)  
*Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe (76, 77, 86, 87, 95)  
*Monkey Bridge* by Lan Cao (00, 03)  
*The Moor's Last Sigh* by Salman Rushdie (07)  
*Mother Courage and Her Children* by Berthold Brecht (85, 87, 06)  
*Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf (94, 97, 04, 05, 07)  
*Mrs. Warren's Profession* by George Bernard Shaw (87, 90, 95, 02)  
*Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare (97)  
*Murder in the Cathedral* by T. S. Eliot (76, 80, 85, 95, 07)  
"My Last Duchess" by Robert Browning (85)  
*My Antonia* by Willa Cather (03, 08)  
*My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok (03)

## N

*Native Son* by Richard Wright (79, 82, 85, 87, 95, 01, 04)

*Native Speaker* by Chang-Rae Lee (99, 03, 05, 07, 08)  
*1984* by George Orwell (87, 94, 05)  
*No Exit* by John Paul Sartre (86)  
*No-No Boy* by John Okada (95)  
*Notes from the Underground* by Fyodor Dostoevski (89)

## O

*Obasan* by Joy Kogawa (94, 95, 04, 05, 06, 07)  
*The Odyssey* by Homer (86, 06)  
*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles (77, 85, 88, 00, 03, 04)  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (01)  
*Old School* by Tobia Wolff (08)  
*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn (05)  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (89, 04)  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey (01)  
*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather (06)  
*The Optimist's Daughter* by D. H. Lawrence (94)  
*The Orestia* by Aeschylus (90)  
*Orlando: A Biography* by Virginia Woolf (04)  
*Othello* by William Shakespeare (79, 85, 88, 92, 95, 03, 04, 07)  
*Our Mutual Friend* by Charles Dickens (90)  
*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (86, 97)  
*Out of Africa* by Isaak Dinesen (06)

## P

*Pale Fire* by Vladimir Nabokov (01)  
*Pamela* by Samuel Richardson (86)  
*A Passage to India* by E. M. Forster (71, 77, 78, 88, 91, 92, 07)  
*Paradise Lost* by John Milton (85, 86)  
*Peer Gynt* by Henrik Ibsen (06)  
*Père Goriot* by Honore de Balzac (02)  
*Persuasion* by Jane Austen (90, 05, 07)  
*Phaedre* by Jean Racine (92, 03)  
*The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson (96, 99, 07, 08)  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (02)  
*The Plague* by Albert Camus (02)  
*Pnin* by Vladimir Nabokov (97)  
*Pocho* by Jose Antonio Villarreal (02, 08)  
*Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James ( 88, 92, 96, 03, 05, 07)  
*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce (76, 77, 80, 86, 88, 96, 99, 04, 05, 08)  
*The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene (95)  
*Praisesong for the Widow* by Paule Marshall (96)  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (83, 88, 92, 97, 08)

*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Spark (90, 08)

*Push* by Sapphire (07)

*Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw (03, 05, 08)

## R

*Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow (03, 07)

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (87, 90, 94, 96, 99, 07)

*The Rape of the Lock* by Alexander Pope (81)

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane (08)

*Redburn* by Herman Melville (87)

*The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro (00, 03)

*Reservation Blues* by Sherman Alexie (08)

*The Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy (07)

*Richard III* by William Shakespeare (79)

*A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean (08)

*A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf (76)

*A Room with a View* by E. M. Forster (03)

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (90, 92, 97, 08)

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard (81, 94, 00, 04, 05, 06)

## S

*Saint Joan* by George Bernard Shaw (95)

*The Sandbox* by Edward Albee (1971)

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (71, 77, 78, 83, 88, 91, 99, 02, 04, 05, 06)

*Sent for You Yesterday* by John Edgar Wideman (03)

*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles (82, 07)

*The Shipping News* by E. Annie Proulx (97)

*Silas Marner* by George Eliot (02)

*Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser (87, 02, 04)

*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut (91, 04)

*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson (00)

*Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison (81, 88, 96, 00, 04, 05, 06, 07)

*Sons and Lovers* by D. H. Lawrence (77, 90)

*The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner (77, 86, 97, 01, 07, 08)

*The Stone Angel* by Margaret Laurence (96, 04)

*The Stranger* by Albert Camus (79, 82, 86, 04)

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams (91, 92, 01, 04, 07, 08)

*The Street* by Ann Petry (07)

*Sula* by Toni Morrison (92, 97, 02, 04, 07, 08)

*Surfacing* by Margaret Atwood (05)

*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway (85, 91, 95, 96, 04, 05)

## T

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens (82, 91, 04, 08)

*Tarftuffe* by Moliere (87)

*The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (71,78, 96, 03, 05, 07)  
*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy (82, 91, 03, 06, 07)  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zorah Neale Hurston (88, 90, 91, 96, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08)  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (91, 97, 03)  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (04)  
*A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley (06)  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (08)  
*To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf (77, 86, 88, 08)  
*Tom Jones* by Henry Fielding (90, 00, 06, 08)  
*Tracks* by Louise Erdrich (05)  
*The Trial* by Franz Kafka (88, 89, 00)  
*Trifles* by Susan Glaspell (00)  
*Tristram Shandy* by Laurence Sterne (86)  
*The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James (92, 94, 00, 02, 04, 08)  
*Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare (85, 94, 96)  
*Typical American* by Gish Jen (02, 03, 05)

## U

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (87)

## V

*The Vicar of Wakefield* by Oliver Goldsmith (06)  
*Victory* by Joseph Conrad (83)  
*Volpone* by Ben Jonson (83)

## W

*Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett (77, 85, 86, 89, 94, 01)  
*The Warden* by Anthony Trollope (96)  
*Washington Square* by Henry James (90)  
*The Wasteland* by T. S. Eliot (81)  
*Watch on the Rhine* by Lillian Hellman (87)  
*The Way of the World* by William Congreve (71)  
*The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope (06)  
*We Were the Mulvaney's* by Joyce Carol Oates (07)  
*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee (88, 94, 00, 04, 07)  
*Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys (89, 92, 05, 07, 08)  
*The Wild Duck* by Henrik Ibsen (78)  
*Winter in the Blood* by James Welch (95)  
*Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare (82, 89, 95, 06)  
*Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor (82, 89, 95)  
*Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston (91, 08)  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte (71,77, 78, 79, 83, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 99, 01, 06, 07, 08)



**Z**

*The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee (82, 01)

*Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez (95)