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ABSTRACT

Compiled from the reading lists of 60 exemplary schools, this "summertime" reading list provides titles of tried-and-true works published in or before 1960 which appeared on at least five of the school reading lists. Selections are divided according to grade level. The list offers over 100 book or series of titles recommended for kindergarten through grade 6, including Brunhoff's "The Story of Babar," Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables," and Williams' "The Velveteen Rabbit." Starred titles indicate books recommended for kindergarten through third grade, either for reading by children or for reading to them. The approximately 100 selections for grades 7 and 8 include Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," Hersey's "Hiroshima," and Wharton's "Ethan Frome." Included in the 186 titles for grades 9 through 12 are Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," Machiavelli's "The Prince," and Wright's "Native Son." (MM)

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SUMMERTIME FAVORITES

compiled by the
National Endowment for the Humanities

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SOURCE: The National Endowment for the Humanities solicited supplemental reading lists from public and private schools in every state. Many of the schools had been chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as exemplary schools; others were known to have strong humanities programs. Sixty of the extracurricular lists that NEH received were used to compile this list. The list includes all titles published in 1960 or before that appeared on at least five of those reading lists. The only exception is in the early grades: Because many schools did not submit suggested readings for these grades, some titles that were mentioned fewer than five times have been added to the K-3 category.

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"Summertime Favorites"
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Oh for a book and a shady nook,
Either in door or out;
With the green leaves whispering overhead,
Or the street cries all about.
Where I may read all at my ease,
Both of the new and the old;
For a jolly good book whereon to look,
Is better to me than gold.

--John Wilson

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

--Chinese Proverb

I cannot live without books.

--Thomas Jefferson

Those books purified my soul, cleansing it of the superficial layer of impressions produced by [my] bitter, miserable reality. I came to appreciate what good books really were and realized how much I needed them and they gradually gave me a stoical confidence in myself: I was not alone in this world and I would not perish!

--Maxim Gorky

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INTRODUCTION

"From a child...all the little money that came into my hands was ever laid out on books," Benjamin Franklin wrote. The roster of illustrious Americans who valued reading in their youth has a multitude of other impressive entries--names like Abraham Lincoln, Louisa May Alcott, and James Baldwin.

Good schools, knowing the worlds that books can open up, encourage extracurricular reading, and we at the National Endowment for the Humanities have collected reading lists from dozens of these schools. Noticing how often books that other generations have enjoyed appear on these lists, we decided to make this compilation of tried-and-true titles. Published in 1960 or before, the works herein have been favorites of at least one previous generation. In many cases, they have delighted several generations of readers.

Anne Gwaltney of the NEH staff undertook the work of tabulating and cross-checking reading lists from sixty schools, and I would like to recognize her efforts. I would also like to thank Marianne Carus, editor-in-chief of Cricket; Anita Moss of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and Jean Osborn of the Center for the Study of Reading, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. They were kind enough to review the list and make recommendations about appropriate age levels.

All those involved in this project recognize that there are many fine contemporary books for young people. There are also excellent older books that appeared too infrequently on the reading lists collected to be included here: Kate Douglas Wiggin's Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, for example; Dylan Thomas's A Child's Christmas in Wales; Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.

Although a few memorable works may be missing, this compilation will nevertheless bring hours of pleasure and enlightenment. With school vacation just around the corner, we call this list "Summertime Favorites." But most of these books are not just for a season. They are for a lifetime.

Lynne V. Cheney
Chairman

"Summertime Favorites"
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Kindergarten through Grade 6

Adanson, Joy
Born Free

Aesop
Fables*

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Women

Andersen, Hans Christian
Fairy tales

Atwater, Richard and Florence
Mr. Popper's Penguins*

Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin
Miss Hickory

Barrie, J.M.
Peter Pan

Baum, L. Frank
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Bemelmans, Ludwig
Madeline series*

Bond, Michael
A Bear Called Paddington

Boston, L.M.
The Children of Green Knowe

Brink, Carol Rylie
Caddie Woodlawn

Brown, Margaret Wise
Goodnight, Moon*

Brunhoff, Jean de
The Story of Babar*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Secret Garden

Burton, Virginia Lee
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*

Butterworth, Oliver
The Enormous Egg

Clark, Ann Nolan
Secret of the Andes

Cleary, Beverly
Henry Huggins series

Coatsworth, Elizabeth
The Cat Who Went to Heaven

Dalgliesh, Alice
The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*
The Courage of Sarah Noble*

De Angeli, Marguerite
The Door in the Wall

De Jong, Meindert
The House of Sixty Fathers
The Wheel on the School

Dodge, Mary Mapes
Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates

Du Bois, William Pene
The Twenty-One Balloons

Edmonds, Walter D.
The Matchlock Gun

Estes, Eleanor
Ginger Pye
Moffats series

Farley, Walter
The Black Stallion

Field, Rachel
Hitty, Her First Hundred Years

Fritz, Jean
The Cabin Faced West

Gilbreth, Frank B. and
Ernestine G. Carey
Cheaper by the Dozen

* Recommended as early as K-3, either for reading by children or for reading to them.

"Summertime Favorites"
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Kindergarten through Grade 6 ###
(continued)

- | | |
|---|--|
| Gipson, Fred
<u>Old Yeller</u> | LaFarge, Oliver
<u>Laughing Boy</u> |
| Godden, Rumer
<u>The Mousewife*</u> | Lamb, Charles and Mary
<u>Tales from Shakespear</u> |
| Grahame, Kenneth
<u>The Reluctant Dragon*</u>
<u>The Wind in the Willows</u> | Latham, Jean Lee
<u>Carry on, Mr. Bowditch</u> |
| Gray, Elizabeth Janet
<u>Adam of the Road</u> | Lawson, Robert
<u>Ben & Me</u>
<u>Rabbit Hill</u> |
| Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm
<u>Grimm's Fairy Tales</u> | Leaf, Munro
<u>The Story of Ferdinand*</u> |
| Hawes, Charles
<u>The Dark Frigate</u> | Lear, Edward
<u>Book of Nonsense*</u> |
| Haywood, Carolyn
Betsy series* | Lenski, Lois
<u>Strawberry Girl</u> |
| Henry, Marguerite
<u>King of the Wind</u>
<u>Misty of Chincoteague</u> | Lewis, C.S.
Chronicles of Narnia series |
| Keith, Harold
<u>Rifles for Watie</u> | Lindgren, Astrid
Pippi Longstocking series |
| Kelly, Eric
<u>The Trumpeter of Krakow</u> | Lofting, Hugh
Doctor Doolittle series |
| Kipling, Rudyard
<u>Captains Courageous</u>
<u>Just So Stories for</u>
<u>Little Children*</u>
<u>The Jungle Book</u> | London, Jack
<u>The Call of the Wild</u>
<u>White Fang</u> |
| Kjelgaard, Jim
<u>Big Red</u> | MacDonald, Betty
<u>Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*</u> |
| Knight, Eric
<u>Lassie Come Home</u> | MacGregor, Ellen
Miss Pickerell series |
| Krumgold, Joseph
<u>...and Now Miguel</u>
<u>Onion John</u> | McCloskey, Robert
<u>Blueberries for Sal*</u>
<u>Homer Price</u>
<u>Make Way for Ducklings*</u> |
| | McSwigan, Marie
<u>Snow Treasure</u> |

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"Summertime Favorites"
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Kindergarten through Grade 6 ###
(continued)

- Meigs, Cornelia
Invincible Louisa
- Milne, A.A.
The House at Pooh Corner*
Now We Are Six*
When We Were Very Young*
Winnie-the-Pooh*
- Minarik, Else Holmelund
Little Bear
- Montgomery, L.M.
Anne of Green Gables
- Mukerji, Dhan Ghopal
Gay-Neck, the Story of a Pigeon
- Norton, Mary
The Borrowers series
- O'Hara, Mary
My Friend Flicka
- Pearce, Philippa
Tom's Midnight Garden
- Perrault, Charles
Cinderella*
- Potter, Beatrix
The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
- Pyle, Howard
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
- Rey, H.A.
Curious George series*
- Richter, Conrad
The Light in the Forest
- Selden, George
The Cricket in Times Square*
- Seuss, Dr.
The Cat in the Hat*
- Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty
- Sorenson, Virginia
Miracles on Maple Hill
- Speare, Elizabeth George
The Witch of Blackbird Pond
- Sperry, Armstrong
Call It Courage
- Spyri, Johanna
Heidi
- Steinbeck, John
The Red Pony
- Stevenson, Robert Louis
A Child's Garden of Verses*
Kidnapped
Treasure Island
- Travers, Pamela L.
Mary Poppins series
- Van Loon, Hendrik
The Story of Mankind
- White, E.B.
Charlotte's Web
Stuart Little
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls
Little House series
- Williams, Margery
The Velveteen Rabbit*
- Wyss, Johann
Swiss Family Robinson
- Zion, Gene
Harry the Dirty Dog*

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"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 7 and 8

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Men

Bagnold, Enid
National Velvet

Blackmore, Richard D.
Lorna Doone

Boulle, Pierre
The Bridge over the River Kwai

Bradbury, Ray
Dandelion Wine
Fahrenheit 451
The Illustrated Man
Martian Chronicles

Buchan, John
The Thirty-Nine Steps

Bunyan, John
The Pilgrim's Progress

Carroll, Lewis
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Through the Looking Glass

Clark, Walter
The Ox-Bow Incident

Cooper, James Fenimore
The Deerslayer
The Last of the Mohicans

Curie, Eve
Madame Curie: A Biography

Dana, Richard Henry
Two Years before the Mast

Day, Clarence
Life with Father

Defoe, Daniel
Robinson Crusoe

Dickens, Charles
A Christmas Carol

Douglas, Lloyd C.
The Robe

Doyle, Arthur Conan
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Dumas, Alexander
The Count of Monte Cristo
The Three Musketeers

Du Maurier, Daphne
Rebecca

Edmonds, Walter D.
Drums along the Mohawk

Ferber, Edna
Cimarron

Forbes, Esther
Johnny Tremain

Forester, C.S.
The African Queen
The Hornblower series

Frank, Anne
Diary of a Young Girl

Frost, Robert
Poems

Gallico, Paul
The Snow Goose

Gunther, John
Death Be Not Proud

Guthrie, A.B.
The Big Sky

Haggard, H. Rider
King Solomon's Mines

Hansberry, Lorraine
A Raisin in the Sun

Hemingway, Ernest
The Old Man and the Sea

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 7 and 8 ###
(continued)

- Hersey, John
A Bell for Adano
Hiroshima
The Wall
- Heyerdahl, Thor
Kon-Tiki
- Hilton, James
Goodbye, Mr. Chips
Lost Horizon
- Hudson, W.H.
Green Mansions
- Hughes, Richard
A High Wind in Jamaica
- Hugo, Victor
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
- Irving, Washington
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
- Keller, Helen
Story of My Life
- Kennedy, John F.
Profiles in Courage
- Kipling, Rudyard
Kim
- Knowles, John
A Separate Peace
- Lee, Harper
To Kill a Mockingbird
- London, Jack
The Sea-Wolf
- Lord, Walter
A Night to Remember
- Malory, Sir Thomas
Le Morte d'Arthur
- Maxwell, Gavin
Ring of Bright Water
- McCullers, Carson
Member of the Wedding
- Michener, James
The Bridges at Toko-Ri
- Mitchell, Margaret
Gone with the Wind
- Nordhoff, Charles and J.N. Hall
Mutiny on the Bounty
- O'Dell, Scott
Island of the Blue Dolphins
- Orczy, Baroness Emma
The Scarlet Pimpernel
- Paton, Alan
Cry, the Beloved Country
- Pyle, Howard
Men of Iron
- Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
The Yearling
- Renault, Mary
The King Must Die
- Roberts, Kenneth
Northwest Passage
- Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de
The Little Prince
Wind, Sand and Stars
- Saki
Stories
- Schaefer, Jack
Shane
- Scott, Sir Walter
Ivanhoe
- Shelley, Mary
Frankenstein
- Smith, Betty
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 7 and 8 ###
(continued)

Steinbeck, John

The Pearl
Tortilla Flat

Stevenson, Robert Louis

The Black Arrow
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll
and Mr. Hyde

Stoker, Bram

Dracula

Thurber, James

The Thurber Carnival

Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit
The Lord of the Rings

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
A Connecticut Yankee in
King Arthur's Court
Innocents Abroad
Life on the Mississippi
The Prince and the Pauper

Verne, Jules

Around the World in Eighty Days
Journey to the Center of the Earth
Mysterious Island
20,000 Leagues under the Sea

Wallace, Lewis

Ben-Hur

Washington, Booker T.

Up from Slavery

Wells, H.G.

The Time Machine
War of the Worlds

Wharton, Edith

Ethan Frome

Wilder, Thornton

The Bridge of San Luis Rey

Wister, Owen

The Virginian

Yates, Elizabeth

Amos Fortune, Free Man

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Grades 9 through 12

- Agee, James
A Death in the Family
- Anderson, Sherwood
Winesburg, Ohio
- Austen, Jane
Emma
Northanger Abbey
Pride and Prejudice
Sense and Sensibility
- Baldwin, James
Go Tell It on the Mountain
- Balzac, Honoré de
Pere Goriot
- Beckett, Samuel
Waiting for Godot
- The Bible
Old Testament
New Testament
- Bolt, Robert
A Man for All Seasons
- Brontë, Charlotte
Jane Eyre
- Brontë, Emily
Wuthering Heights
- Browning, Robert
Poems
- Buck, Pearl
The Good Earth
- Butler, Samuel
The Way of All Flesh
- Camus, Albert
The Plague
The Stranger
- Cather, Willa
Death Comes for the Archbishop
My Antonia
- Cervantes, Miguel
Don Quixote
- Chaucer, Geoffrey
The Canterbury Tales
- Chekhov, Anton
The Cherry Orchard
- Chopin, Kate
The Awakening
- Collins, Wilkie
The Moonstone
- Conrad, Joseph
Heart of Darkness
Lord Jim
The Secret Sharer
Victory
- Crane, Stephen
The Red Badge of Courage
- Dante
The Divine Comedy
- Defoe, Daniel
Moll Flanders
- Dickens, Charles
Bleak House
David Copperfield
Great Expectations
Hard Times
Oliver Twist
A Tale of Two Cities
- Dickinson, Emily
Poems
- Dinesen, Isak
Out of Africa
- Dostoevski, Fyodor
The Brothers Karamazov
Crime and Punishment
- Dreiser, Theodore
An American Tragedy
Sister Carrie

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Grades 9 through 12 ###
(continued)

- Eliot, George
Adam Bede
Middlemarch
Mill on the Floss
Silas Marner
- Eliot, T.S.
Murder in the Cathedral
- Ellison, Ralph
Invisible Man
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo
Essays
- Faulkner, William
Absalom, Absalom!
As I Lay Dying
Intruder in the Dust
Light in August
The Sound and the Fury
- Fielding, Henry
Joseph Andrews
Tom Jones
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott
The Great Gatsby
Tender Is the Night
- Flaubert, Gustave
Madame Bovary
- Forster, E.M.
A Passage to India
A Room with a View
- Franklin, Benjamin
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
- Galsworthy, John
The Forsyte Saga
- Golding, William
Lord of the Flies
- Goldsmith, Oliver
She Stoops to Conquer
- Graves, Robert
I, Claudius
- Greene, Graham
The Heart of the Matter
The Power and the Glory
- Hamilton, Edith
Mythology
- Hardy, Thomas
Far From the Madding Crowd
Jude the Obscure
The Mayor of Casterbridge
The Return of the Native
Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel
The House of the Seven Gables
The Scarlet Letter
- Hemingway, Ernest
A Farewell to Arms
For Whom the Bell Tolls
The Sun Also Rises
- Henry, O.
Stories
- Hersey, John
A Single Pebble
- Hesse, Hermann
Demian
Siddhartha
Steppenwolf
- Homer
The Iliad
The Odyssey
- Hughes, Langston
Poems
- Hugo, Victor
Les Misérables
- Huxley, Aldous
Brave New World

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Grades 9 through 12 ###
(continued)

Ibsen, Henrik

A Doll's House
An Enemy of the People
Ghosts
Hedda Gabler
The Master Builder
The Wild Duck

James, Henry

The American
Daisy Miller
Portrait of a Lady
The Turn of the Screw

Joyce, James

Portrait of the Artist
As a Young Man
Dubliners

Kafka, Franz

The Castle
Metamorphosis
The Trial

Keats, John

Poems

Kerouac, Jack

On the Road

Koestler, Arthur

Darkness at Noon

Lawrence, D.H.

Sons and Lovers

Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee

Inherit the Wind

Lewis, Sinclair

Arrowsmith
Babbitt
Main Street

Llewellyn, Richard

How Green Was My Valley

Machiavelli

The Prince

Mann, Thomas

Buddenbrooks
The Magic Mountain

Marlowe, Christopher

Dr. Faustus

Maugham, Somerset

Of Human Bondage

McCullers, Carson

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

Melville, Herman

Billy Budd
Moby-Dick
Typee

Miller, Arthur

The Crucible
Death of a Salesman

Monsarrat, Nicholas

The Cruel Sea

O'Neill, Eugene

The Emperor Jones
A Long Day's Journey into Night
Mourning Becomes Electra

Orwell George

Animal Farm
1984

Pasternak, Boris

Doctor Zhivago

Poe, Edgar Allan

Short stories

Remarque, Erich

All Quiet on the Western Front

Rolvaag, O.E.

Giants in the Earth

Rostand, Edmond

Cyrano de Bergerac

Salinger, J.D.

The Catcher in the Rye

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Grades 9 through 12 ###
(continued)

Sandburg, Carl
Abraham Lincoln:
The Prairie Years
Abraham Lincoln:
The War Years

Saroyan, William
The Human Comedy

Sayers, Dorothy
The Nine Tailors

Shakespeare, William
Plays and sonnets

Shaw, George Bernard
Arms and the Man
Major Barbara
Pygmalion
Saint Joan

Sheridan, Richard B.
The School for Scandal

Shute, Nevil
On the Beach

Sinclair, Upton
The Jungle

Sophocles
Antigone
Oedipus Rex

Steinbeck, John
East of Eden
The Grapes of Wrath
Of Mice and Men

Stowe, Harriet Beecher
Uncle Tom's Cabin

Swift, Jonathan
Gulliver's Travels

Thackeray, William M.
Vanity Fair

Thoreau, Henry David
Walden

Tolstoy, Leo
Anna Karenina
War and Peace

Trollope, Anthony
Barchester Towers

Turgenev, Iwan
Fathers and Sons

Twain, Mark
Pudd'nhead Wilson

Updike, John
Rabbit Run

Vergil
The Aeneid

Voltaire
Candide

Warren, Robert Penn
All the King's Men

Waugh, Evelyn
Brideshead Revisited
A Handful of Dust

Wharton, Edith
Age of Innocence

White, T.H.
The Once and Future King
The Sword in the Stone

Wilde, Oscar
The Importance of Being Earnest
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wilder, Thornton
Our Town

Williams, Tennessee
The Glass Menagerie
A Streetcar Named Desire

Wolfe, Thomas
Look Homeward, Angel

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 9 through 12 ###
(continued)

Woolf, Virginia
Mrs. Dalloway
To the Lighthouse

Wright, Richard
Black Boy
Native Son

Wouk, Herman
The Caine Mutiny

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