

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 Isak 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 Zora 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 Brontë (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)