

11th Grade Suggested Additional Reading (Optional)

FICTION

Animal Dreams, Barbara Kingsolver

- Codi Noline learns secrets about her past that change her future when she returns to her hometown to care for her ailing father and to teach high school biology.

As I Lay Dying, William Faulkner

The Awakening, Kate Chopin

- Edna Pontellier, an unhappy wife and mother, discovers new qualities in herself when she visits Grand Isle, a resort for the Creole elite of New Orleans.

Bastard Out of Carolina, Dorothy Allison

- Bone confronts poverty, the troubled marriage of her mother and stepfather, and the stigma of being considered “white trash” as she comes of age in South Carolina.

Beloved, Toni Morrison

- Preferring death over slavery for her children, Sethe murders her infant daughter, Beloved, who later mysteriously returns as a young woman and almost destroys her mother's and sister's lives.

The Blessing Way, Tony Hillerman

- Set in the Navajo reservations of New Mexico and Arizona, the first of the Joe Leaphorn mystery series, pits Leaphorn, a Navajo tribal policeman, against mysterious forces of evil.

Bless Me, Ultima, Rudolfo Anaya

- Ultima, a wise old mystic, helps a young Hispanic boy resolve personal dilemmas caused by the differing backgrounds and aspirations of his parents and society.

Briar Rose, Jane Yolen

- Disturbed by her grandmother Gemma’s unique version of Sleeping Beauty, Rebecca seeks the truth behind the fairy tale.

Bride Price, Buchi Emecheta

- Aku-nna, a very young Ibo girl, and Chike, her teacher, fall in love despite a tribal custom forbidding their romance.

A Cup of Tea: A Novel of 1917, Amy Ephron

- When she took the penniless and mysterious Eleanor Smith out of the rain, wealthy Rosemary did not realize what terrible consequences her good deed would have.

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

- In a series of letters to God and her sister, Celie reveals her struggle to overcome the violence and brutality in her life.

East of Eden, John Steinbeck

- The lives of two California families intertwine as good clashes against evil.

Ellen Foster, Kaye Gibbons

Going After Cacciato: A Novel, Tim O'Brien

- Private Cacciato takes off from the Vietnam War to walk to Paris, and his company follows him on journey both real and surreal.

Great Lion of God Taylor Caldwell

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, Carson McCullers

- The deaf-mute John Singer becomes the talisman for the dreams and yearnings of four people in a small Southern town.

The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros

- In short, poetic stories, Esperanza describes life in a low-income, predominantly Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago.

I Never Promised You a Rose Garden, Joanne Greenberg

- A sixteen-year-old girl struggles out of the seductive kingdom of her madness and reenters the world.

In the Time of Butterflies, Julia Alvarez

- Dede, the only survivor of the four Mirabel sisters code named Mariposas or butterflies, reveals their role in the liberation of the Dominican Republic from the dictator Trujillo.

The Jungle, Upton Sinclair

- This gritty description of urban life at the turn of the century shows the moral and physical degradation of a jungle in which humans barely live better than animals.

Killer Angels, Michael Shaara

- A great battle looms over Gettysburg as the Rebels face the Yanks.

A Lesson Before Dying, Ernest Gaines

- When Jefferson's attorney states, "I would just as soon put a hog in the electric chair as this man," disillusioned teacher Grant Wiggins is sent into the penitentiary to help this slow learner gain a sense of dignity and self-esteem before his execution.

Lucy Gayheart, Willa Cather

- A young girl from an American village leaves home, goes to Chicago, and falls in love with a middle-aged singer.

My Antonia Willa Cather

The National Bernard Malamud

Member of the Wedding, Carson McCullers

- A young Southern girl is determined to be the third party on a honeymoon despite all the advice.

Nightmares and Dreamscapes, Stephen King

- A collection of short stories.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey

- An irrepressible rebel leads fellow inmates of a mental hospital in a struggle with tyrannical Nurse Ratched.

Summer, Edith Wharton

- Wharton presents a psychological portrait of a young woman coming of age and the forces that move her from childhood into adulthood.

Tender is the Night, F. Scott Fitzgerald

- Fitzgerald bases this story on his real life marriage to Zelda, who suffered from mental illness.

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

- Tim O'Brien relates a gripping series of stories set during the Vietnam War.

Biography

Born on the Fourth of July, Ron Kovic

- An all-American boy joins the Marines, goes to Vietnam, is gravely wounded, and becomes an antiwar activist.

Lakota Woman, Mary Crowdog and Richard Erdoes

- Mary Crowdog stands with two thousand other Native Americans at the site of the Wounded Knee massacre in South Dakota demonstrating for Native American rights.

NONFICTION

Blue Highways: A Journey into America, William Least Heat Moon

- Traveling miles along the small back roads of the United States allows the author to introduce a series of unique Americans.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Dee Brown

- A narrative of the white man's conquest of the American land as the Native American victims experienced it.

Gideon's Trumpet, Anthony Lewis

- One determined convict changes the American legal system.

Hiroshima, John Hersey

- John Hersey comes to Hiroshima, Japan, in 1946 to report on the first city to be destroyed by an atomic bomb and returns forty years later to see what has happened since his first visit.

Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World, Jack Weatherford

- Among the gifts of Native Americans were not only enormous quantities of gold and silver but also some 60% of the foods we eat today.

Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours, Marian Wright Edelman

- A child advocate shares her thoughts on values, raising families, and the future of our country.

DRAMA

All My Sons, Arthur Miller

- What good can come of Joe Keller's placing family above social obligations and selling defective airplane parts to the Army?

Soldier's Play: A Play, Charles Fuller

- An African American sergeant's 1944 murder in a Louisiana army camp is investigated by his white captain and a black outsider with shocking results.