GOOD READS OF THE 20th CENTURY
DECADE BY DECADE

1900’s
Golden Bowl.                                            Henry James
Heart of Darkness.                                       Joseph Conrad
A Room with a View.                                      E.M. Forester
Kim.                                                    Rudyard Kipling
The House of Mirth.                                     Edith Wharton
The Jungle.                                              Upton Sinclair

1910’s
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. James Joyce
My Antonia.                                              Willa Cather
Winesburg, Ohio.                                         Sherwood Anderson
Sons and Lovers.                                         D.H. Lawrence
The Metamorphosis.                                       Franz Kafka
Of Human Bondage.                                        Somerset Maugham

1920’s
All Quiet on the Western Front. Erich M. Remarque
The Great Gatsby.                                        F. Scott Fitzgerald
An American Tragedy.                                     Theodore Dreiser
Gentlemen Prefer Blonds.                                 Anita Loos
Mrs. Dalloway.                                           Virginia Woolf
The Magic Mountain.                                      Thomas Mann

1930’s
The Good Earth.                                          Pearl Buck
The Maltese Falcon.                                      Dashiell Hammett
The Grapes of Wrath.                                     John Steinbeck
The Citadel.                                              A.J. Cronin
Light in August.                                         William Faulkner
Gone With the Wind.                                      Margaret Mitchell

1940’s
Brideshead Revisited.                                    Evelyn Waugh
Shane.                                                   Jack Schaefer
Cross Creek.                                             Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
The Plague.                                              Albert Camus
For Whom the Bell Tolls.                                 Ernest Hemingway
Native Son.                                               Richard Wright

1950’s
Invisible Man.                                           Ralph Ellison
A Death in the Family.                                   James Agee
Lord of the Flies.                                       William Golding
Fahrenheit 451.                                          Ray Bradbury
Fellowship of the Ring.                                  J.R.R. Tolkien
The Mandarins.                                           Simone de Beauvoir

1960’s
Pale Fire.                                                Vladimir Nabokov
The Jewel in the Crown.                                  Paul Scott
The Golden Notebook.                                     Doris Lessing
The Eighth Day.                                          Thornton Wilder
To Kill a Mockingbird.                                   Harper Lee
The Confessions of Nat Turner.                           William Styron

1970’s
Song of Solomon.                                         Toni Morrison
Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont.                           Elizabeth Taylor
The Optimists Daughter.                                  Eudora Welty
Ordinary People.                                         Judith Guest
The Shining.                                              Stephen King
Time and Again.                                           Jack Finney

1980’s
Midnight’s Children.                                     Salman Rushdie
The Remains of the Day.                                  Kazuo Ishiguro
Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant.                       Anne Tyler
The Bonfire of the Vanities.                             Tom Wolfe
The Prince of Tides.                                     Pat Conroy
Gorky Park.                                               Martin Cruz Smith

1990’s
The Sparrow.                                             Mary Doria Russell
The Virgin Suicides.                                     Jeffrey Eugenides
The Deep End of the Ocean.                               Jacquelyn Mitchard
Native Speaker.                                          Chang-rae Lee
The Bird Artist.                                         Howard Norman
All the Pretty Horses.                                   Cormac McCarthy