To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee
F Lee
A young girl growing up in an Alabama town in the 1930s learns of injustice and violence when her father, a widowed lawyer, defends a black man falsely accused of rape.

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter
by Carson McCullers
F McCullers
A quiet, sensitive girl searches for beauty in a small, but damned Southern town in the 1930s.

Moby-Dick
by Herman Melville
F Melville
Ishmael, a sailor, recounts the ill-fated voyage of a whaling ship led by the fanatical Captain Ahab in search of the white whale that crippled him.

1984
by George Orwell
F Orwell
George Orwell’s classic novel reveals a dystopia where Big Brother is always watching. Winston Smith is a lowly Party member tasked with rewriting history so it fits with official Party records. However, when his curiosity for the truth leads to his arrest, Winston may lose much more than his freedom.

The Bell Jar
by Sylvia Plath
F Plath
Esther Greenwood, a talented and successful writer, finally succumbs to madness when the world around her begins to falter.

The Jungle
by Upton Sinclair
F Sinclair
The narrative of a young immigrant’s plight in America exposes the horrifying working conditions in the Chicago meat-packing industry.

East of Eden
by John Steinbeck
F Steinbeck
The biblical account of Cain and Abel is echoed in the history of two generations of the Trask family in California.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
by Mark Twain
F Twain
The mighty Mississippi River of the antebellum South gives the novel both its colorful backdrop and its narrative shape, as the runaways Huck and Jim—a young rebel against civilization allied with an escaped slave—drift down its length on a flimsy raft.
The Good Earth
by Pearl S. Buck
A Chinese peasant overcomes the forces of nature and the frailties of human nature to become a wealthy landowner.

The Stranger
by Albert Camus
In Albert Camus’ quintessential absurdist fiction an ordinary man is unwittingly caught up in a senseless murder in Algeria, resulting in a murder conviction. However, Meursault soon realizes the court reached its verdict because he did not cry during his mother’s funeral.

Rebecca
by Daphne Du Maurier
A young girl becomes the second Mrs. Max de Winter, only to find that she is not the mistress of Manderley. Instead the house and its occupants are dominated by the memory of Rebecca, her predecessor.

Middlemarch
by George Eliot
Dorothea Brooke finds herself married to the dreadfully boring Edward Casaubon, a scholar and author. After the honeymoon results in disastrous unhappiness, Dorothea decides the marriage is doomed to fail, but is blinded by her desire to be a part of society’s upper echelon.

Invisible Man
by Ralph Ellison
An African-American man’s search for success and the American dream leads him out of college to Harlem and a growing sense of personal rejection and social invisibility.

The Great Gatsby
by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Jay Gatsby had once loved beautiful, spoiled Daisy Buchanan, then lost her to a rich boy. Now, mysteriously wealthy amid the decadence of Jazz Age society, he is ready to risk everything to woo her back.

One Hundred Years of Solitude
by Gabriel García Márquez
Tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. Rich and brilliant, it is a chronicle of life, death and the tragicomedy of humankind.

Jude the Obscure
by Thomas Hardy
Details the story of Jude Fawley, a poor stonemason who longs to be a minister, and how the brutal deaths of his children and his inability to please the two women in his life hinder his dreams and threaten his very existence.

The Old Man and the Sea
by Ernest Hemingway
A Cuban fisherman sets out to sea, intent on hooking a fish large enough to provide for him and his family. However, in order to bring his catch home he must endure the struggle of a lifetime.

Siddhartha
by Hermann Hesse
Blends elements of psychoanalysis and Asian religions to probe an Indian aristocrat’s efforts to renounce sensual and material pleasures to discover spiritual truths for life.

Their Eyes Were Watching God
by Zora Neale Hurston
When independent Janie Crawford returns home to the South in the 1930s, her small African-American community begins to buzz with gossip about her affair with a younger man.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
by Ken Kesey
A lavish 40th— anniversary edition of this American classic story of Randle Patrick McMurphy, a criminal who feigns insanity and is admitted to a mental hospital, where he challenges the autocratic authority of the head nurse.