The Secret History
by Donna Tartt
Richard Papen, a relatively impoverished student at a New England college, falls in with an exclusive clique of rich, worldly Greek scholars and soon learns the dreadful secret that keeps them together.

War and Peace
by Leo Tolstoy
In 1805, conversations are dominated by the prospect of war. Terror swiftly engulfs the country as Napoleon’s army marches on Russia. This work entwines themes of conflict and love, birth and death, free will and fate—with scenes of 19th-century Russia, to create an epic of human life in all its imperfection and grandeur.

In Cold Blood
by Truman Capote
Capote’s masterful account of the senseless 1959 murders of four members of a farm family in Holcomb, Kansas, and the search for the killers, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith.

Walden
by Henry David Thoreau
Thoreau’s classic account of his experiment in simple living at Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts.

Inferno
by Dante Alighieri
Describing Dante’s descent into Hell midway through his life with Virgil as a guide, this work depicts a cruel underworld in which desperate figures are condemned to eternal damnation for committing one or more of seven deadly sins.

The Odyssey
by Homer
A new translation of the epic poem, and the first by a woman, brings alive Homer’s tale of shipwrecks, monsters, and magic, and provides an introductory overview of the poem’s major themes, controversial origin, and the scope of its influence.
Fiction

**Wuthering Heights**  
by Emily Brontë  
F Bronte  
The passionate love of Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff mirrors the powerful moods of the Yorkshire moors.

**The Good Earth**  
by Pearl S. Buck  
F Buck  
A Chinese peasant overcomes the forces of nature and the frailties of human nature to become a wealthy landowner.

**Crime and Punishment**  
by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
F Dostoyevsky  
Believing he can commit the perfect crime, Roderick Raskolnikov robs and murders an elderly pawnbroker. He eventually finds himself engaged in a battle of wits with inspector Porfiry.

**The Great Gatsby**  
by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
F Fitzgerald  
The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby, his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, and of lavish parties on Long Island.

**One Hundred Years of Solitude**  
by Gabriel García Márquez  
F Garcia Marquez  
The evolution and eventual decadence of a small South American town is mirrored in the family history of the Buendías.

**The Scarlet Letter**  
by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
F Hawthorne  
Set in New England during the 1600s, Hester Prynne is ostracized by her husband and colonial New England society because she has borne an illegitimate child and has refused to name the child’s father. As punishment she is forced to wear a scarlet “A” at all times.

**The Hunchback of Notre Dame**  
by Victor Hugo  
F Hugo  
Quasimodo, the reclusive bell-ringer of Notre-Dame, tries desperately to save Esmeralda—with whom he’s fallen in love—from her unjust and untimely death.

**The Unbearable Lightness of Being**  
by Milan Kundera  
F Kundera  
Interweaves story and dream, past and present, and philosophy and poetry in a sardonic and erotic tale of two couples—Tomas and Teresa, and Sabina and Gerhart.

**The Catcher in the Rye**  
by J. D. Salinger  
F Salinger  
In an effort to escape the hypocrisies of life at his boarding school, 16-year-old Holden Caulfield seeks refuge in New York City.

**I Capture the Castle**  
by Dodie Smith  
F Smith  
The 1934 journal of 17-year-old Cassandra Mortmain reveals her perspective on six stormy months in the eccentric and poverty-stricken life of her family in a ruined Suffolk castle, ending with the revelation that Cassandra is deeply in love.

**One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich**  
by Aleksandr Isaevich Solzhenitsyn  
F Solzhenitsyn  
Ivan Denisovich faces daily hardships and struggles to maintain his humanity while being a prisoner in a Stalinist labor camp.

**Gulliver’s Travels**  
by Jonathan Swift  
F Swift  
The unusual voyages of Englishman Lemuel Gulliver carry him to such strange locales as Lilliput, where the inhabitants are six inches tall; Brobdignag, a land of giants; an island of sorcerers; and a nation ruled by horses.