

The Write Foundation Writing Curriculum

Essay Writing Reading List

Recommended for Ages 14-18

It matters what you read.

1. The best readers are the best writers.
2. What you read is a major factor determining who you will become.
3. Quality literature encourages reading, because it is hard to put a good book down.
4. Reading is not just for fun. Reading plays a major role in brain development.

Book List Organization and Point System: To encourage students to read quality literature, for every book a student reads from the following book list, a predetermined number of assigned points can be earned and included in their semester grade. The point groups are determined by length and reading level.

- Books are mostly listed in alphabetical order by title.
- If several books are by one author or a series by various authors, then they are included in the alphabetical order by the author's name, series title, or a group title such as missionaries.
- Books are not listed in a required reading order.
- If using this system, students need to read a total of 48 points per semester. Extra points can be rolled over into the next semester.

Reading Guidelines:

- Books may be read to students, listened to on tape, or read independently. Books that have already been read to students or listened to on tape that a student reads independently now may count.
- **Avoid book reports.** Book reports take the joy out of reading. Instead, talk about each book together. When books are enjoyed, it is natural to want to talk about them. Take advantage of it.
- Students should ask permission/approval about receiving credit for books required for other classes (e.g. Worldviews of the Western World, Tapestry of Grace, Sonlight, or any Lamplighter books).

Easy-to-Read? Abridged? Translated? Need teacher guidance and approval.

- **Avoid "easy-to-read" versions** of any books, such as those by Great Illustrated Classics.
- **Abridged** means a book has been condensed or shortened. For a few extremely difficult books there are some abridged versions which may be preferable.
- A few of the classics were originally written in another language. Some **translations** are much better than others.

The Books Read form is a suggested record keeping tool for record keeping convenience of the student and parent/teacher. If using this system, books read should be recorded on the form provided, on another full piece of paper, or on the computer so the teacher has a record of books read by each student.

- 1.) The student's name
- 2.) The title of the book
- 3.) The number of points assigned to the book on the book list
- 4.) One parent's signature

Where to find these books?

1. Many of these books will likely be found at a public library.
2. An easy way to find out more about these books is through Amazon descriptions and reviews.
3. A number of these books are available on Kindle.
4. Used and online bookstores offer new and used copies of many books at reasonable prices.

The goal is to encourage the reading of quality books that all will enjoy. Investigating these books that range from modern to classical to unrenowned works of art will hopefully be an enjoyable adventure.

The Write Foundation – Essay Writing Reading List

12 Point Books

Animal Farm – George Orwell
 Answers for Difficult Days: Surviving the Storm of
 Secularism - David Quine
 Assumptions that Affect Our Lives –
 Christian Overman

Jane Austen
 Persuasion
 Sense and Sensibility
 Northanger Abbey

Book of Greek Myths –
 Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Bruscho – Bruce Olsen
 The Cross and the Switchblade – David Wilkerson
 Daughter of the Legend – Jesse Stuart

John Eldredge
 Fathered by God
 Killing Lions

The Exchange of Truth – David Shormann
 Eyes Wide Open – Brienne Murk
 Facing Your Giants, Teen Edition –
 Max Lucado & Monica Hall

Father Brown – G.K. Chesterton
 Father Brown: The Essential Tales
 The Best of Father Brown

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
 Future Men – Douglas Wilson
 For Young Women Only –
 Shaunti Feldhahn & Lisa A. Rice

Give Me This Mountain – Helen Roseveare
 He Gave Us a Valley (sequel)
 Digging Ditches (sequel)
 Living Holiness

God's Smuggler – Brother Andrew
 A Life Well Lived: A Study of the Book of
 Ecclesiastes – Tommy Nelson

Paul Little
 Know What You Believe
 Know Why You Believe

Max Lucado
 It's Not About Me
 When God Whispers Your Name
 The Applause of Heaven
 Other Lucado books can count.

John Maxwell
 Failing Forward
 Winning with People
 Developing the Leader Within
 Becoming a Person of Influence

Never Before in History: America's Inspired Birth -
 Gary Amos and Richard Gardiner
 Of Pandas and People –
 Percival Davis & Dean Keynyon
 One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich –
 Alexander Solzhenitsyn
 Passion and Purity – Elizabeth Elliot

Frank E. Peretti
 This Present Darkness
 Piercing the Darkness
 Prophet

Pilgrim's Progress – John Bunyan
 Pilgrim's Progress Today – Lael Arrington

Gene Stratton Porter
 Daughter of the Land
 Laddie

Lark Rise to Candleford Trilogy – Flora Thompson
 Lark Rise
 Over to Candleford
 Candleford Green

Science Fiction – Jules Verne
 Around the World in Eighty Days
 Master of the World
 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
 A Journey to the Center of the Earth
 The Mysterious Island

The Space Trilogy – C. S. Lewis
 Out of the Silent Planet
 Perelandra
 That Hideous Strength

William Shakespeare / Alan Durband
 Hamlet
 Julius Caesar
 Macbeth
 Romeo and Juliette
 The Taming of the Shrew
 Other books in this series can count.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde –
 Robert Louis Stevenson
 Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson

Mark Twain
 The Prince and The Pauper

H.G. Wells
 The Invisible Man
 The Time Machine

18 Point Books

Alas, Babylon – Pat Frank

Affliction: A Compassionate Look at the Reality of
Suffering and Pain – Edith Schaeffer

Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic
Campaign to End Slavery – Eric Metaxas

Anna and the King of Siam – Margaret Landon

Jane Austen
Pride and Prejudice
Emma

Born Again – Charles Colson

Captivating – John & Stasi Eldredge

The Circle Maker – Mark Batterson

Agatha Christie
Murder on the Orient Express
And Then There Were None
Other books in Hercule Poirot mysteries count.

Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court –
Mark Twain

The Cost of Discipleship – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Deadliest Monster – Jeff Baldwin

The Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage –
Alfred Lansing

The Favorite Uncle Remus – Joel Chandler Harris

The Gift of Music: Great Composers and Their
Influence – Jane Stuart Smith & Betty Carlson

The Hiding Place – Corrie Ten Boom

The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien

How to Win Friends and Influence People –
Dale Carnegie

In the Presence of My Enemies – G. Burnham

Johnny Tremain – Esther Forbes

Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson

Kon-Tiki – Thor Heyerdahl

C.S. Lewis
The Abolition of Man
The Great Divorce
Mere Christianity
The Problem of Pain
The Screwtape Letters

Catherine Marshall
Julie
A Man Called Peter: The Story of Peter Marshall

Flannery O'Connor
Everything that Rises Must Converge
The Violent Must Bear It Away
Wise Blood

Gene Stratton Porter
Freckles
Girl of the Limberlost (Sequel to Freckles)

Dorothy L. Sayers
(Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries 200-400 pgs.)
Clouds of Witnesses
The Five Red Herrings
Murder Must Advertise
Strong Poison
Other books this length can count.

North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell
The Phantom of the Opera – Gaston Leroux
The Ramsay Scallop – Frances Temple
Rich Dad Poor Dad – Robert T. Kiyosaki
Rifles for Watie – Harold Keith
Robinson Crusoe – Daniel DeFoe
Robin Hood – Roger Green
Run Baby Run – Nicky Cruz
Sea of Glory – Ken Wales & David Poling

The Scarlet Pimpernel – Baroness Orczy
The Scarlet Pimpernel
The Elusive Pimpernel
The League of the Scarlet Pimpernel
Sir Percy Leads the Band
Other books in this series count.

The Story of King Arthur and His Knights –
Howard Pyle

The Story of the Trapp Family Singers –
Maria Augusta Trapp (Sound of Music)

Jesse Stuart Stories
Hie to the Hunter
The Thread That Runs So True

Swiss Family Robinson – Johann D. Wyss
Tales from Shakespeare – Charles and Mary Lamb
To Kill a Mocking Bird – Harper Lee
The Universe Next Door - James Sire

A Walk Across America – Peter Jenkins
The Walk West (sequel)

Wild at Heart – John Eldredge

24 Point Books

Buffalo Bill's Life Story: An Autobiography –
William F. Cody (365 pages version)
Christy – Catherine Marshall

Charles Dickens
Great Expectations
Oliver Twist
A Tale of Two Cities

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

James Herriot (some language)
All Creatures Great and Small
All Things Bright and Beautiful
All Things Wise and Wonderful
The Lord God Made Them All
Every Living Thing

Pilgrim's Progress – John Bunyan

Dorothy L. Sayers
(Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries 400-600 pgs.)
Busman's Honeymoon
Gaudy Night
Have His Carcase
The Nine Tailors
Other books this length can count.

Irving Stone
The President's Lady: Rachel and Andrew
Jackson
Love is Eternal: Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln

The Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien
The Fellowship of the Ring
The Two Towers
The Return of the King

The Zion Chronicles – Brock & Bodie Thoene
The Gates of Zion
A Daughter of Zion
The Return to Zion
The Key to Zion
A Light in Zion

The Zion Covenant – Brock & Bodie Thoene
Vienna Prelude
Prague Counterpoint
Munich Signature
Jerusalem Interlude
Danzig Passage
Other books in this series count.

The Zion Legacy – Brock & Bodie Thoene
Jerusalem Vigil
Thunder from Jerusalem
Jerusalem's Heart
The Jerusalem Scroll
Stones of Jerusalem
Jerusalem's Hope
Other books in this series count.

34 Point Books

Ben Hur – Lew Wallace
Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy –
Eric Metaxas

Civil War Trilogy– Jeff M. Shaara
The Killer Angels
Gods and Generals
The Last Full Measure

Alexandre Dumas
The Count of Monte Cristo (Lowell Bair translator)
The Three Musketeers
Twenty Years Later
Ten Years Later
The Man in the Iron Mask

Greek Mythology
(Translated by Robert Fagles)
The Aeneid – Virgil
The Iliad – Homer
The Odyssey – Homer

A Lineage of Grace: Five Stories of Unlikely
Women Who Changed Eternity – Francine Rivers

Lorna Doone – R. D. Blackwell
North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell
The Robe – Lloyd C. Douglas

Irving Stone
Men to Match My Mountains
Those Who Love: John and Abigail Adams

48 Point Books

Hans Christian Andersen: The Complete Fairy
Tales and Stories
Hans Christian Andersen (original author)
Erik Christian Haugaard

The City of God – St. Augustine

The Complete Tales of Uncle Remus –
Joel Chandler Harris

Charles Dickens
Bleak House
David Copperfield
Little Dorit
Nicholas Nickleby
Our Mutual Friend
The Pickwick Papers

Les Miserable – Victor Hugo

The Scottish Chiefs: A Romance (Volumes 1 & 2)
(William Wallace) – Jane Porter
(2 Volume Set: 1 volume = 24 points)

The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The
Complete Short Stories – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
(2 Volume Set: 1 volume = 24 points)

Irving Stone
The Agony and Ecstasy
(Michelangelo / Renaissance)

Wives and Daughters – Elizabeth Gaskell

Understanding the Times – Dr. Jeff Meyers and
David A. Noebel