

The Write Foundation Essay Writing Reading List Recommend 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.

Reading Guidelines:

- **Read** books to students. The more students are read to, the higher their level of reading and comprehension climbs. Read books out loud to them that they would not find easy to read on their own, but also read easier books out loud for sheer enjoyment.
- **Listen** to audio books. When you are going places in the car or just relaxing at home, listening to a good book captivates and entertains.
- **Encourage** students to select books to read independently that are on their easy-to-read level and that interest them.
- **Avoid book reports. Discuss** what is read. Instead of book reports, talk to them about what they are reading. As they enjoy books, they will want to talk about them.

Book List Organization and Point System: To encourage students to read quality literature. The point groups are determined by length.

- Books are mostly listed in alphabetical order by title.
- If several books are by one author or a series by various authors, then these are included in the alphabetical order by the author's last name or a series title.
- Books are not listed in a required reading order.
- Give extra credit. For every 20 points read, 1 point could be added to the final semester grade. The teacher decides if the books must be read independently to count for extra credit. Limit to 5 points extra credit per semester.

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.
- A few of the classics were originally written in another language. Some **translations** are much better than others.

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 or Thriftbooks 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.
5. Amazon and Thriftbooks each carry most of these books.

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

15 Point Books

Animal Farm – George Orwell
And the Word Came with Power – Joanne Shetler
Born in the Year of Courage – Emily Crofford
Bound for Oregon – Jean Van Leeuwen
Bud and Me – Alta Abernathy
Call it Courage – Armstrong Sperry
The Cay – Theodore Taylor
A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens
Come on Seabiscuit – Ralph Moody
The Exchange of Truth – David Shormann
Faith Like Potatoes – Angus Buchan
A Gathering of Days – Joan W. Blos
God's Adventurer: Hudson Taylor – Phyllis Thompson
The Heart Reader of Franklin High – Terri Blackstock
Humbug Mountain – Sid Fleischman
In Search of Honor – Donna Lynn Hess
The Journeyman – Elizabeth Yates
Jungle Books (not Disney) – Rudyard Kipling Just So Stories – Rudyard Kipling
C. S. <u>Lewis</u> – The Space Trilogy Out of the Silent Planet Perelandra That Hideous Strength

Men of Faith Series – Various Authors John Newton: The British Slave Trader George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles Samuel Morris: The African Boy God Sent Other books in this series count.
Number the Stars – Lois Lowry
Prison to Praise – Merlin R. Carothers
Gene Stratton <u>Porter</u> Freckles Laddie
The Red Badge of Courage – Stephen Crane
<u>The Scarlet Pimpernel</u> – 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.
Shades of Gray – Carolyn Reeder
Sign of the Beaver – Elizabeth G. Speare
Robert Louis <u>Stevenson</u> The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
John Hudson <u>Tiner</u> Exploring Planet Earth Exploring the History of Medicine Exploring the World of Biology Exploring the World of Chemistry
Jules <u>Verne</u> Master of the World Journey to the Center of the Earth

20 Point Books

American History– Peter Marshall The Light and the Glory for Young Readers From Sea to Shining Sea for Young Readers Sounding Forth the Trumpet for Young Readers
Amos Fortune Free Man – Elizabeth Yates
Anne of Green Gables Series – L. M. Montgomery Anne of Green Gables Anne of the Island Anne of Avonlea Other books in this series count.
Assumptions that Affect Our Lives – Christian Overman
Catherine Called Birdie – Karen Cushman
Chariots of Fire – W. J. Weatherby
The Cross and the Switchblade – David Wilkerson
The Escape – A. Vander Jagt
Follow My Leader – James B. Garfield
Freedom Train (Harriet Tubman) – Dorothy Sterling
God King: A Story in the Days of King Hezekiah – Joanne Williamson
The Good Master – Kate Seredy
The Great and Terrible Quest – Margaret Lovett
The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt Day – Scott O'Dell
Homesick – Jean Fritz
Horse Stories – Marguerite Henry Misty of Chincoteague King of the Wind White Stallion of Lipizza Other books in this series count.
Just David – Eleanor H. Porter
Leonardo Da Vinci – Emily Hahn
Living Fearless – Jamie Winship

The Magna Charta – James Daugherty
Marco Polo: his travels and adventures – George Makepeace Towle
My Side of the Mountain – Jean C. George Other books in this series count.
Of Pandas and People – Percival Davis & Dean Keynyon
Old Yeller – Fred Gipson
Otto of the Silver Hand – Howard Pyle
Pilgrim's Progress – John Bunyan
Rascal – Sterling North
Rani Adventure Series – Ron Snell It's a Jungle Out There! Life is a Jungle Jungle Calls
Dorothy <u>Sayer's</u> Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries Clouds of Witnesses Unnatural Death Other Sayer mysteries about this length count.
The Secret Garden – Frances H. Burnett
Snow Treasure – Marie McSwigan
Stink Alley – Jamie Gilson
Up from Slavery – Booker T. Washington
H.G. <u>Wells</u> The Invisible Man The Time Machine
Harold Bell <u>Wright</u> Shepherd of the Hills The Calling of Dan Matthews

25 Point Books

Across Five Aprils – Irene Hunt
Air Raid, Pearl Harbor – Theodore Taylor
Black Horses for the King – Anne McCaffrey
Bruscho – Bruce Olsen
Carry on Mr. Bowditch – Jean Lee Latham
Calico Bush – Rachel Field
The Chestery Oak – Kate Seredy
Agatha <u>Christie</u> The Mysterious Affair at Styles The Body in the Library Other Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple mysteries count 210-260 pgs.
Chronicles of Narnia Series – C. S. Lewis The Magicians Nephew The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe Other books in this series count.
John <u>Eldredge</u> Wild at Heart Fathered by God Killing Lions
Roger Lancelyn <u>Green</u> Myths The Tale of Troy Myths of the Norsemen Tales of Ancient Egypt
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
Henry Reed Series – Keith Robertson Henry Reed, Inc. Henry Reed's Journey Henry Reed's Babysitting Service
James <u>Herriot</u> If Only They Could Talk
Hope Rising: Stories from the Ranch of Rescued Dreams – Kim Meeder
The Hound of the Baskervilles – Arthur Conan Doyle
Holes – Louis Sachar
Hittite Warrior – Joanne Williamson
I Am David – Anne Holm
Island of the Blue Dolphins – Scott O'Dell
Jip: His Story – Katherine Paterson

Julie of the Wolves – Jean Craighead George
Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson
A Lantern in Her Hand – Beth Streeter Aldrich
C.S. <u>Lewis</u> Mere Christianity The Problem of Pain The Screwtape Letters
Love Comes Softly Series – Janette Oke Love Comes Softly Love's Enduring Promise Love's Long Journey Love's Abiding Joy Other books in this series count.
A Little Princess – Frances Hodgson Burnett
Max <u>Lucado</u> When God Whispers Your Name The Applause of Heaven Other Lucado books can count.
John <u>Maxwell</u> Developing the Leader Within Becoming a Person of Influence
Never Before in History: America's Inspired Birth – Gary Amos and Richard Gardiner
The Phantom of the Opera – Gaston Leroux
Gene Stratton <u>Porter</u> Girl of the Limberlost
The Prince and the Pauper – Mark Twain
Same Kind of Different as Me – Ron Hall
Jesse <u>Stuart</u> Stories Daughter of the Legend
Tales from Shakespeare – Charles Lamb
They Loved to Laugh – Kathryn Worth
Theras and His Town – Caroline Dale Snedeker
Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
The Trumpeter of Krakow – Eric P. Kelley
Jules <u>Verne</u> 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
Warrior of the Son – Samuel Schiller

30 Point Books

Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery – Eric Metaxas
Jane <u>Austen</u> Persuasion
Big Red – Jim Kjelgaard
Calico Captive – Elizabeth G. Speare
Agatha <u>Christie</u> And Then There Were None The Murder at the Vicarage Other Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple mysteries count 260-320 pgs.
Crown and Covenant – Douglas Bond Duncan's War King's Arrow Rebel's Keep
The Deadliest Monster – Jeff Baldwin
Detectives in Togas – Henry Winterfeld The Mystery of the Roman Ransom (sequel)
The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
Father Brown – G.K. Chesterton The Best of Father Brown Father Brown: The Essential Tales
<u>The Galway Chronicles</u> – Brock and Bodie Thoen Only the River Runs Free Of Men and Of Angels Ashes of Remembrance All Rivers to the Sea
God's Smuggler – Brother Andrew
Gone Away Lake – Elizabeth Enright
The Hidden Journals of Mathias – Annette Geroy
The Hiding Place – Corrie Ten Boom
The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien
Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret – Dr. Howard and Geraldine Taylor
If I Perish – Esther Ahn Kim

Little Britches Series – Ralph Moody Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers Man of the Family The Home Ranch Other books in this series count.
Mara, Daughter of the Nile – Eloise Jarvis McGraw
Catherine <u>Marshall</u> A Man Called Peter: The Story of Peter Marshall
George <u>Orwell</u> – 1984
Through the Gates of Splendor – Elizabeth Elliot
The Phantom Toll Booth – Norton Juster
The Ramsay Scallop – Frances Temple
Robinson Crusoe – Daniel DeFoe
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – M. D. Taylor
Dorothy L. <u>Sayers</u> (Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries 260-320 pgs.) Murder Must Advertise Strong Poison Other Sayers books this length can count.
The Shining Company – Rosemary Sutcliff
Snow in the River – Carol Ryrie Brink
The Story of the Trapp Family Singers – Maria Augusta Trapp (Sound of Music)
Stowaway – Karen Hesse
Jessie <u>Stuart</u> The Thread That Runs So True Hie to the Hunters
Summer of the Monkeys – Wilson Rawls
Swift Rivers – Cornelia Meigs
Jules <u>Verne</u> Around the World in Eighty Days
A Walk Across America – Peter Jenkins
Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls
Harold Bell <u>Wright</u> Least of These My Brothers That Printer of Udell's

35 Point Books

Alas, Babylon – Pat Frank
Anna and the King of Siam – Margaret Landon
Jane <u>Austen</u> Emma Sense and Sensibility Northanger Abbey
Born Again – Charles Colson
The Bounty Trilogy – James Norman Hall Mutiny on the Bounty Men Against the Sea Pitcairn's Island
Agatha <u>Christie</u> Murder on the Orient Express
Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court – Mark Twain
The Cost of Discipleship – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Drew Farthering Mysteries – Julianna Deering Death by the Book Rules of Murder Dressed for Death Murder at the Mikado
End of the Spear – Steve Saint
Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage – Alfred Lansing
The Gift of Music: Great Composers and Their Influence – Jane Stuart Smith & Betty Carlson
Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales Second Series
Hard Times – Charles Dickens
How to Win Friends and Influence People – Dale Carnegie
Indian Captive – Lois Lenski
In the Presence of My Enemies – G. Burnham
Johnny Tremain – Esther Forbes
The Last Sin Eater – Francine Rivers

Gilbert <u>Morris</u> – House of Winslow Series The Honorable Imposter Bk.1 Liberty Bell Series Sound the Trumpet Bk.1 Lone Star Legacy Deep in the Heart Bk.1 Other books in these and other series count.
Gene Stratton <u>Porter</u> Keeper of the Bees
Rich Dad Poor Dad – Robert T. Kiyosaki
Rifles for Watie – Harold Keith
Run Baby Run – Nicky Cruz
St. Simons Trilogy – Eugenia Price (State of Georgia Historical Fiction) Lighthouse New Moon Rising Beloved Invader Other books by this author count.
Sea of Glory – Ken Wales & David Poling
Irving <u>Stone</u> The President's Lady: Rachel and Andrew Jackson Love is Eternal: Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln
Swiss Family Robinson – Johann D. Wyss
To Kill a Mocking Bird – Harper Lee
<u>The Zion Legacy</u> – 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.

40 Point Books

Ben Hur – Lew Wallace
Charles <u>Dickens</u> A Tale of Two Cities
Alexandre <u>Dumas</u> The Count of Monte Cristo
Roger Lancelyn <u>Green</u> King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table
James <u>Herriot</u> All Creatures Great and Small All Things Bright and Beautiful All Things Wise and Wonderful The Lord God Made Them All Every Living Thing
Julie – Catherine Marshall
North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell
Frank E. <u>Peretti</u> This Present Darkness Piercing the Darkness Prophet
Dorothy L. <u>Sayers</u> (Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries 400-600 pgs.) Busman's Honeymoon The Five Red Herrings Other books this length can count.
The Scarlett Thread – Francine Rivers

<u>The Shiloh Legacy</u> – Bodie Thoene In My Father's House A Thousand Shall Fall Say to This Mountain
Robert <u>Whitlow</u> Mountain Top Jimmy Chosen People Other books by this author count.
<u>The Zion Chronicles</u> – Brock & Bodie Thoene The Gates of Zion A Daughter of Zion The Return to Zion The Key to Zion A Light in Zion
<u>The Zion Covenant</u> – Brock & Bodie Thoene Vienna Prelude Prague Counterpoint Munich Signature Jerusalem Interlude Danzig Passage Other books in this series count.

45 Point Books

Jane <u>Austen</u> Pride and Prejudice
Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy – Eric Metaxas
Christy – Catherine Marshall
<u>Civil War Trilogy</u> – Jeff M. Shaara Gods and Generals The Killer Angels The Last Full Measure
Charles <u>Dickens</u> Great Expectations Oliver Twist Our Mutual Friend The Pickwick Papers
Alexandre <u>Dumas</u> The Man in the Iron Mask The Three Musketeers Other books in this series count.
James <u>Herriot</u> Favorite Dog Stories
Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
The Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. <u>Tolkien</u> The Fellowship of the Ring The Two Towers The Return of the King
Mark of the Lion Series – Francine Rivers A Voice in the Wind An Echo in the Darkness As Sure as the Dawn

<u>Greek Mythology</u> (Translated by Robert Fagles) The Aeneid – Virgil The Iliad – Homer 704 (50 points) The Odyssey – Homer
A Lineage of Grace: Five Stories of Unlikely Women Who Changed Eternity – Francine Rivers
The Robe – Lloyd C. Douglas
Irving <u>Stone</u> Men to Match My Mountains Those Who Love: John and Abigail Adams
Understanding the Times Volume 1 – Understanding the Faith Volume 2 – Understanding the Culture Volume 3 – Dr. Jeff Meyers and David A. Noebel
Leon <u>Uris</u> Exodus: A Novel of Israel Trinity: A Novel of Ireland
Jules <u>Verne</u> The Mysterious Island
Wives and Daughters – Elizabeth Gaskell (50 points)