

AP READING LIST

The lists below contain suggested titles for a students taking AP Language. However, the texts are written at various reading levels, from 9th grade on up so they are good choices for all high school students. Most of these are nonfiction texts and there is a brief explanation of each.

Note: Fiction titles are provided at the bottom of the list for students who like to read for enjoyment. However, students may not choose fiction titles for our independent book studies.

Autobiography / Memoir / Biography

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. **Wait Till Next Year.** (Pulitzer author about childhood and baseball)
Albom, Mitch. **Tuesdays With Morrie.** (Dying teacher and life-long student)
McCourt, Frank. **Angela's Ashes.** (Poverty, starvation, and exuberance in depression Ireland)
McCourt, Frank. **Tis'** (Continuation of McCourt's story in NY)
McCourt, Malachy. **Swimming with Monks.** (Frank's brother tells his side of the story)
Ashe, Arthur. **Days of Grace.** (Ashe's personal struggles with prejudice and AIDS)
Wright, Richard. **Black Boy.** (Life to age 19 in the deep south)
Griffin, John Howard. **Black Like Me.** (Eyewitness history by white man who becomes black)
Rodriguez, Richard. **Hunger for Memory.** (Social assimilation / education with alienation)
Karr, Mary. **The Liar's Club.** (Poetic insight into one of the ugliest places on earth)
Wolff, Tobias. **This Boy's Life.** (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the '50's)
Drakulic, Slavenka. **Café Europa.** (Idiosyncratic look at westernized ex-communist countries)
Wideman, John Edgar. **Brothers and Keepers.** (One a professor, the other an inmate)
Cheng, Nien. **Life and Death in Shanghai.** (Imprisonment, resistance, justice)
Mathabane, Mark. **Kaffir Boy.** (Civil rights in South Africa)
Orwell, George. **Down and Out in Paris and London.** (Life as a tramp in Europe)
Hurstun, Zora Neale. **Dust Tracks on a Road.** (Account of her rise from poverty to prominence)
Dawson, George. **Life is So Good.** (101 year old recounts life in context of 20th century)
Armstrong, Lance. **It's Not About the Bike.** (Honest, open, smart autobiography)
Moss, Barbara. **Change Me Into Zeus' Daughter.** (Female version of Angela's Ashes)
Lynch, Thomas. **The Undertaking.** (Essays by a small town undertaker)
Conover, Ted. **Newjack.** (Chronicles a year as a prison guard at Sing-Sing)
Gawande, Atul. **Complications.** (A surgeon writes about his 'craft')
Eire, Carlos. **Waiting for Snow in Havana.** (Yale prof. about his childhood in Cuba before Revolution)
Angelou, Maya **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** (African-American writer traces her coming of age)
Walls, Jeannette. **The Glass Castle** (story of childhood with eccentric, bordering on abusive, parents)
Satrapi, Marjane. **Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood** (graphic novel--author describes her youth in revolutionary Iran)
Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin. **Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time.** (sheltered and nursed in a remote mountain village, author vows to return to build schools throughout Pakistan and Afghanistan)
Krakauer, John. **Three Cups of Deceit: How Greg Mortenson, Humanitarian Hero, Lost His Way** (Krakauer's investigation revealing the "truth" about Mortenson's story)
Ung, Loung. **First They Killed My Father** (memoir of a young girl whose life torn apart by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia)
Sheff, David. **Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey through His Son's Addiction.** (father's anguished account of his promising son's meth addiction and its painful impact on the entire family is honest, raw, and full of information about the realities of drug addiction)
White, Neil. **In the Sanctuary of Outcasts** (man sent to prison set in last leper colony in America)

Alexander, Caroline. *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*. Back cover description: The Imperial Transatlantic Expedition, Sir Ernest Shackleton's daring but ill-fated attempt to cross the South Pole, comes to life in pictures...and in the words of the men who lived the extraordinary Antarctic adventure...an

exhilarating account of one of the greatest episodes in the history of polar exploration...one of history's all-time great survival stories.

Chen, Da. *Colors of the Mountain*. —"I was born in Southern China in 1962, in the tiny town of Yellow Stone..."

Dillard, Annie. *An American Childhood*. Autobiography of 1950s childhood in Pittsburgh...combines the child's sense of wonder with adult's intelligence and is written in some of the finest prose that exists in contemporary American writing...a joyous ode to [Dillard's] childhood

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages...listed in a Library of Congress survey as among the ten most influential books in America as a book that made a difference in your life. May be of special interest to students who liked Elie Wiesel's *Night*.

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Seabiscuit*. Sports biography of a great American race horse in Depression era America.

Kennedy, Caroline. *Profiles in Courage for our Time*. From Publishers Weekly: —"In 1990, the Kennedy family resurrected the concept and established the Profiles in Courage Award for selfless public service. Now, in this expertly packaged anthology, Caroline Kennedy and over a dozen prominent writers bring the sacrifices of those award winners to life...a stirring look at people who rarely thought about what they could do for themselves, but always about what they could do for their country."

Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage*. —"This is a book about the most admirable of human virtues—courage. 'Grace under pressure,' Ernest Hemingway defined it. And these are the stories of the pressures experienced by eight United States senators and the grace with which they endured them." (Kennedy). Pulitzer Prize, 1957. Of special interest to students interested in politics, public life...about the kind of courage America needs— moral courage, the courage of personal integrity.

Manchester, William. *American Caesar: Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964*: Inspiring, outrageous... A thundering paradox of a man. Douglas MacArthur, one of only five men in history to have achieved the rank of General of the United States Army. He served in World Wars I, II, and the Korean War, and is famous for stating that "in war, there is no substitute for victory." AMERICAN CAESAR examines the exemplary army career, the stunning successes (and lapses) on the battlefield, and the turbulent private life of the soldier-hero whose mystery and appeal created a uniquely American legend.

Markham, Beryl. *West With the Night*. Moving memoir of early 20th Century woman aviator in East Africa.

Sheff, David. *Beautiful Boy*. A memoir about a father's struggle with his son's meth addiction. Gives insight into the lack of treatment and options for this kind of addiction. Includes research and personal narration.

Sobel, Dava. **Galileo's Daughter**. (Father/daughter's vastly different worlds)

McBride, James. **The Color of Water**. (A tribute to his remarkable mother)

Gunther, John. **Death Be Not Proud**. (Father tells of 17 year old's struggle with brain tumor)

McCullough, David. **John Adams**. (Palace intrigue, scandal, and political brilliance)

Kennedy, John F. **Profiles in Courage** (Classic study of courageous lives)

Walker, Alice. **Possessing the Secret of Joy**. (story of female circumcision in Africa and traumatic results)

Ellis, Joseph. **Founding Brothers**. (6 stories about the "gestative" 1790's)

Maraniss, David. **When Pride Still Mattered: The Life of Vince Lombardi**. (touchstone for 60's)

Isaacson, Walter. **Benjamin Franklin: An American Life**. (Insightful bio of his career and relationships)

Leblanc, Adrian Nicole. **Random Family**. (Four teens grow up in the Bronx)

Krakauer, Jon. **Under the Banner of Heaven**. (Violent religious extremism in our own country)

Gleck, James. **Isaac Newton**. (Comprehensive and intimate look at a great scientist)

Spiegelman, Art. **Maus: A Survivor's Tale** (author struggles to come to terms with his parents' brutal past at Auschwitz in this seminal graphic novel)

Nature / Adventure / Science

Kinder, Gary. **Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea.** (Engineer's scheme to salvage \$1 billion)
Junger, Sebastian. **The Perfect Storm.** (Swordfish boat vs. Mother Nature)
Krakauer, Jon. **Into Thin Air.** (Everest climb gone wrong)
Larson, Erik. **Isaac's Storm.** (1900 hurricane still deadliest of all time)
Sobel, Dava. **Longitude.** (Thorniest scientific problem of 18th century is solved)
Werbach, Adam. **Act Now, Apologize Later.** (former Sierra Club pres. On steps to stop environment loss)
Fromm, Peter. **Indian Creek Chronicles.** (modern day Walden in Idaho wilderness)
Winchester, Simon. **The Map the Changed the World.** (obscure historical figure with strong impact on civ.)
Lamott, Anne. **Bird by Bird.** (practical advice for aspiring writers and life in general)
Alvarez, Walter. **T.Rex and the Crater of Doom**(story of impact theory of dinosaur extinction development)
Roach, Mary. **Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers**(humorous, touching, and respectful look at how scientists utilize the human body)
Silverstein, Ken. **The Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy and His Backyard Nuclear Reactor** (boy's obsession with nuclear energy creates radioactive device with potential to spark environmental disaster in his community)
Menzel, Peter and Faith D'Aluisio. **Hungry Planet: What the World Eats.**(photo-chronicle of families around the world, the food they eat, and how uncontrollable forces like poverty, conflict and globalization affect our most elemental human need – food)
Firlik, Katrina. **Another Day in the Frontal Lobe: A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life on the Inside.**(honest appraisal of work as a doctor)
Melville, Greg. **Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future** (humorous road trip with the author and his college buddy in a converted 1980's Mercedes from Vermont to California, and learn a little about how to be more eco-friendly along the way)
Thoreau, Henry David. **Walden** (spends 26 months alone in the woods to "front the essential facts of life.")
Thompson, Gabriel. **Working in the Shadows: A Year of Doing the Jobs (Most) Americans Won't Do** (author works in various unskilled labor jobs providing engaging and gruesome details)
Skloot, Rebecca. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** (story of a woman whose cancerous cells were developed in culture without her knowledge and became the HeLa line scientists used in researching some of the most important and astounding medical discoveries of the 20th century)

Sports

Remnick, David. **King of the World.** (Ali as racial and cultural hero in the 1950's)
Reynolds, Bill. **Fall River Dreams.** (team searches for glory, town searches for soul)
Gildea, William. **Where the Game Still Matters.** (Last championship season in Indiana)
Millman, Chad. **The Odds.** (1 season, 3 gamblers in Las Vegas)
Dent, Jim. **The Junction Boys.** (10 days in training camp with Bear Bryant)
Lewis, Michael. **Moneyball.** (how Oakland A's general manager is changing baseball)
Conroy, Pat. **My Losing Season.** (famous author on his senior year at The Citadel)
Riley, Rick. **Who's Your Caddie?** (Sports Illustrated writer caddies for famous people)
McManus, James. **Positively 5th Street.** (World series of poker and murder in Vegas)
Shapiro, Michael. **The Last Great Season.** (Brooklyn Dodgers 1956 pennant race)
Powell, Robert Andrew. **We Own This Game.** (Pop Warner football in Miami run by race, politics, money)
Asinof, Eliot. **Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series.** (the scandal and damage caused)

History / Politics / War

Lacey, Robert and Danny Danziger. **The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millenium** (facts and principles inside and outside Saxon England)
Winchester, Simon. **The Professor and The Madman.** (tale of compilation of Oxford Dictionary)
Ambrose, Stephen. **Undaunted Courage.** (Compelling story of Lewis and Clark expedition)
Tuban, Jeffrey. **A Vast Conspiracy.** (well researched account of Clinton tragedy)
Sontag, Sherry. **Blindman's Bluff.** (story of American submarine espionage, for Clancy fans)
Cahill, Thomas. **How the Irish Saved Civilization.** (just what the title suggests)
Herman, Arthur. **How the Scots Invented the Modern World.** (just what the title suggests)
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. **Notes on a Kidnapping.** (investigation behind Pablo Escobar's terror)

Diamond, Jared. **Guns, Gems, and Steel.** (readable work of 13,000 years of history)

Larson, Erik. **The Devil and the White City.** (the Chicago World's Fair and the first serial killer)

Fleming, Thomas. **Duel.** (story of duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton)

Gladwell, Malcolm. **The Tipping Point.** (explains why changes in society occur suddenly)

Gourevitch, Phillip. **We Wish to Inform You Tomorrow We Will be Killed with Our Families.** (Rwanda Genocide)

Menzies, Gavin. **1421: The Year China Discovered America.** (discovery before Columbus?)

Huggington, Arianna. **Pigs at the Trough.** (what to do about greedy CEOs and politicians)

Lewis, Bernard. **The Crisis of Islam.** (origins of 9-11 thru history of conflict between Islam and West)

Levitt, Stephen and Stephen Dubner. **Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything.** (interesting illumination of mysteries of everyday life)

Friedman, Thomas. **The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century** (advances in technology)

Brown, Dee. **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West**

Tuchman, Barbara **A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century** (example of a single feudal lord to trace the history of the 14th century)

Machiavelli, Niccolo **The Prince** (A treatise giving the absolute ruler practical advice on ways to maintain a strong central government)

Karlsen, Carol **The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England** (The status of women in colonial society affects the Salem witch accusations)

Epstein, Norrie **Friendly Shakespeare: A Thoroughly Painless Guide to the Best of the Bard** (perspective on Shakespeare's works through these sidelights, interpretations, anecdotes, and historical insights)

Gwynne, S.C. **Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, The Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History** (war with Comanches, story of Cynthia Parker whose son became the last and greatest chief of the Comanche tribe)

True Crime

Berendt, John. **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.** (entertaining true crime story)

Capote, Truman. **In Cold Blood.** (the first, some say the best, in this category)

Cornwell, Patricia. **Portrait of a Killer.** (the Jack the Ripper crimes are solved?)

Metress, Christopher. **The Lynching of Emmett Till: A Documentary Narrative.** (murder in the south)

Travelogue

Pirsig, Robert. **Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.** (travel, philosophy and bikes)

Paterniti, Michael. **Driving Mr. Albert: A Trip Across America with Einstein's Brain.** (yes, it's true)

Kerouac, Jack. **On the Road.** (cross country bohemian adventure)

Wolfe, Tom. **Electric Kool Aid Acid Test.** (Wolfe travels with the Merry Pranksters)

*Reading list compiled from American Library Association Young Adult Library Services Outstanding Books for the College Bound and Lifelong

Learners <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/outstandingbooks/2009/obcb09.cfm>

General Nonfiction

[The Road Less Traveled](#) by M. Scott Peck – Pretty much the granddaddy of all self-improvement books, it's easily one of the best nonfiction works I've ever read. By melding love, science, and spirituality into a primer for personal growth, Peck guides the reader through lessons on delaying gratification, accepting responsibility for decisions, dedicating oneself to truth and reality, and creating a balanced lifestyle.

[Radical Honesty](#) by Brad Blanton – The book's basic point is sound – honesty is the best policy. With a brash, 'in your face' writing style, Blanton states that lying is the primary cause of human stress and advocates strict truthfulness as the key to achieving intimacy in relationships and happiness in life.

[The Art of Learning](#) by Josh Waitzkin – Josh Waitzkin transformed himself from a championship chess master into an elite Tai Chi martial arts practitioner. This book is part autobiography, part chess memoir, and part martial arts

philosophy. Essentially, Waitzkin offers his own approach to becoming a student and applying certain disciplines and habits toward learning and eventually mastering any skill.

[Scratch Beginnings: Me, \\$25, and the Search for the American Dream](#) by Adam Shepard – Shepard started his life over from scratch in Charleston, South Carolina, with \$25 and the clothes on his back. He lived in a homeless shelter while looking for work. His goal was to start with nothing and, within a year, work hard enough to save \$2500, buy a car, and to live in a furnished apartment. “Scratch Beginnings” is sometimes sad, sometimes amusing, pointed and thought provoking - all the makings of a book well worth reading.

[The Joy of Simple Living](#) by Jeff Davidson – A great resource for anyone wanting to cut down on the clutter and confusion in their life. Davidson takes a step-by-step, easy to follow approach to simplifying your house, garage, office, car, etc. Not only will you learn to create an orderly home, you'll gain the knowledge necessary to be a more successful spouse, parent, and worker by learning how to prioritize and simplify.

[Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion](#) by Robert Cialdini – Arguably the best book on the science of persuasion. Cialdini explains the six psychological principles that drive our powerful impulse to comply to the pressures of others and shows how we can defend ourselves against manipulation (or put these principles to work for our own interests).

[Secrets of the Millionaire Mind](#) by T. Harv Ecker – This book competently discusses the missing link between wanting success and achieving it. If you suspect that your mindset is holding you back from making more money and achieving your goals, you'd be wise to give this title a thorough read.

[Management of the Absurd](#) by Richard Farson – Farson zeros in on the paradoxes of communication, the politics of management, and the dilemmas of change, exploring relationships within organizations and offering a unique perspective on the challenges managers face. I highly recommend this book for anyone in a management or leadership role, including parents and teachers.

[Overachievement](#) by John Eliot – According to Eliot, in order to achieve spectacular success, one must change his or her thoughts about pressure and learn to welcome it, enjoy it, and make it work. Eliot says that goal-setting, relaxation, and visualization, the typical self-help suggestions, just don't work well for most people. This book provides some great food for thought that attempts to counteract the primary points of other major self-help gurus.

[The Magic of Thinking Big](#) by David Schwartz – This is another classic self-improvement book. Schwartz gives the reader useful, proactive steps for achieving success. He presents a clear-cut program for getting the most out of your job, marriage, family life, and other relationships. In doing so, he proves that you don't need to be an intellectual or have innate talent to attain great success and satisfaction in life.

[An Incomplete Education: 3,684 Things You Should Have Learned but Probably Didn't](#) by Judy Jones – Simply fun and insightful, this book is truly a wonderful supplement to any person's mental knowledgebase. It's basically an intellectual outline of history with a lot of helpful charts and guides. It's written in a very humorous tone and nails the humor attempts more often than not. Whether you're interested in a 'refresher' or just a quick briefing on an academic area you never had time for, this book is for you. It's not in depth, but it does tell you what you should know in all areas, including history, philosophy, music, art, and even film.

[How to Win Friends and Influence People](#) by Dale Carnegie – Easily one of the best and most popular books on people-skills ever written. Carnegie uses his adept storytelling skills to illustrate how to be successful by making the most of human relations.

[How to Talk to Anyone](#) by Leil Lowndes – Another practical book about conversational people skills. Lowndes helps the reader discover how to make small talk work, how to break the ice, how to network at a party, how to use body language to captivate your audience, and much more.

[The Irresistible Offer](#) by Mark Joyner – Create an irresistible offer. Present it to people who need it. And sell it almost instantly. A great sales and marketing primer for anyone trying to sell something.

[Nickel and Dimed](#) by Barbara Ehrenreich – This is the book that provoked Adam Shepard to write “Scratch Beginnings.” It’s another first person perspective on poverty in America. In the book, Ehrenreich moves into a trailer and works as a waitress, hotel maid, and Wal-Mart sales clerk. Nickel and Dimed reveals low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and duality. I found it to be an extremely thought-provoking read.

[The Power of Less](#) by Leo Babuta – Babuta’s message is simple: Identify the essential. Eliminate the rest. Get on your way to living a simpler life in order to do and achieve the things that are of real value to you and your family. This is my favorite book on the art of simplicity.

[Outliers: The Story of Success](#) by Malcolm Gladwell – Gladwell embarks on an intellectual journey to figure out what separates the best, the brightest, and the most successful people from everyone else. He investigates these high achievers by looking closely at their culture, family, generation, and the individual experiences of their upbringing. This book really gets you thinking about success from a totally different perspective.

[Freakonomics](#) by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner – This book just may redefine the way you look at the modern world. Through skillful storytelling and wry insight, Levitt and Dubner set out to explore the hidden side of everything from the inner workings of a crack gang to the myths of political campaign finance to the true importance or unimportance of gun control. It’s an eye-opening read.

[Maximum Achievement](#) by Brian Tracy – This book is probably exactly what you would expect from a well-written, classic self-improvement book. Tracy’s straightforward advice is accompanied by easy-to-do exercises and enhanced with inspiring stories of successful, highly motivated achievers in many fields.

[You, Inc.: The Art of Selling Yourself](#) by Harry Beckwith – Beckwith concentrates on the importance of being a considerate human being as it relates to running a successful business or living a successful life. The title is somewhat deceiving because the book is more about giving than it is about selling... or should I say, it’s about giving as a way to sell yourself. Either way, this book is packed with practical tips and insightful stories.

[Getting Things Done](#) by David Allen – The ultimate ‘organize your life’ book. Allen’s ideas and processes are for all those people who are overwhelmed with too many things to do, too little time to do them, and a general sense of unease that something important is being missed. The primary goal of this book is to teach you how to effectively get your ‘to-do inbox’ to empty.

[The Dip: A Little Book That Teaches You When to Quit](#) by Seth Godin – Godin challenges the age old idea that winners never quit. He states that every new project or career starts out exciting and fun. Then it gets hard and less fun, until it hits a low point - and at that point you have to figure out if you’re in a dip or at a dead-end. This book provides a look at how the market actually expects people to quit and what to do about it. It’s a short and insightful read.

[Predictably Irrational](#) by Dan Ariely – Looks at the reasons so many of us continuously make irrational decisions on a daily basis. It’s a scientific but easily readable and unquestionably insightful look about why we do what we do on a daily basis, and why we never change our ways even though we often ‘know better.’

[The Smartest Investment Book You’ll Ever Read](#) by Daniel R. Solin – A short, no-fluff guide to investing. Solin provides an easy-to-follow four step plan that allows investors to create and monitor their portfolios in 90 minutes or less per year, explaining how to assess risk and how to allocate assets to maximize returns and minimize volatility. This book was absolutely invaluable to me when I first started investing my money.

[The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#) by Stephen Covey – A classic self-improvement book. Covey presents a principle-centered approach for solving personal and professional problems by delivering a step-by-step guide for living with integrity and honesty and adapting to the inevitable change life brings us everyday. It’s a must-read.

[Made to Stick](#) by Chip Heath and Dan Heath – Why do some ideas and stories thrive while others die? And how do we improve the chances that our ideas and stories will catch on with others? Heath and Heath tackle these

questions head-on. This book is extremely entertaining, while simultaneously providing practical, tangible strategies for making things stick.

[Fast Food Nation](#) by Eric Schlosser – “What we eat has changed more in the last forty years than in the last forty thousand,” Schlosser observes, yet most Americans know very little about how that food is made, where, by whom, and at what cost. In a wonderfully horrifying way, this book exposes the American fast food industry’s evil side. It’s a true eye-opener.

[Stumbling on Happiness](#) by Daniel Gilbert – Gilbert, a Harvard professor of psychology has studied happiness for decades, and he shares scientific findings that just might change the way you look at the world. His primary goal is to persuade you into accepting the fact that happiness is not really what or where you imagined it would be. This is my favorite book on happiness by a long shot.

[The Wisdom of Crowds](#) by James Surowiecki – Surowiecki argues that “under the right circumstances, groups are remarkably intelligent, and are often smarter than the smartest people in them.” He uses statistical examples to backup this theory. For example: “...the TV studio audience of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire guesses correctly 91 percent of the time, compared to ‘experts’ who guess only 65 percent correctly.” Hmm... perhaps this is why Wikipedia is so successful.

[The 4-Hour Workweek](#) by Tim Ferriss – Ferris challenges us to evaluate our perspective on the cost and availability of our dreams. And he teaches us that hard work isn’t very hard when you love what you’re doing. Although there’s certainly some pages of self promotion within, Ferris provides invaluable tips to help us remain aligned with our goals, set expectations on our terms, and eliminate unnecessary time-sinks while increasing our overall effectiveness.

[Personal Development for Smart People](#) by Steve Pavlina – A surprisingly well-written, broad, and totally raw look at the different aspects of self-improvement. Pavlina skillfully unveils the truth about what it takes to consciously grow as a human being by teaching what he calls ‘the seven universal principles’ behind all successful personal growth efforts.

[The Now Habit](#) by Neil Fiore – Quite possibly the best book ever written on overcoming procrastination. Fiore provides an optimistic, empathetic, and factual explanation of why we procrastinate and then delivers practical, immediately applicable tips for reversing the procrastination spell. On many levels, this book saved my life.

[Ignore Everybody](#) by Hugh MacLeod – Where does inspiration and creativity come from? This little book attempts to uncover this mystery. MacLeod states that creativity is not a genetic trait, nor is it reserved for professionals. Everyone is creative sooner or later, but unfortunately, most people have it drilled out of them when they’re young. MacLeod’s primary goal is to un-drill it and unleash your creative mind.

[Never Eat Alone](#) by Keith Ferrazzi – Ferrazzi explains the guiding principles he has mastered over a lifetime of personal and professional networking and describes what it takes to build the kind of lasting, mutually beneficial relationships that lead to professional and personal success. Most of this book is fantastic - you learn how to relate to people, how to establish contacts and maintain connections, and how to create a social network. If you interact with a lot of people on a regular basis, it’s a great read.

[Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind](#) by Shunryu Suzuki – This inspiring work ranks with the great Zen classics, in a voice and language completely adapted to modern-day sensibilities. Suzuki’s words breathe with the joy and simplicity that make a liberated life possible. As he reveals the actual practice of Zen as a discipline for daily life, the reader begins to understand what Zen is truly about. If you’re even slightly curious about the practice of Zen Buddhism, you’ll find this book to be extremely enlightening.

[Eating Well For Optimum Health](#) by Andrew Weil – If you only read one health and nutrition book in your whole lifetime, read this one. Weil sheds light on the often confusing and conflicting ideas circulating about good nutrition, addressing specific health issues and offering nutritional guidance to help heal and prevent major

illnesses. Of particular value is his examination of recent dieting fads, such as low-carbohydrate, vegan and 'Asian' diets, with an eye toward debunking the myths about them while highlighting their benefits.

[The Tipping Point](#) by Malcolm Gladwell – Gladwell looks at how small ideas can spread like viruses, sparking global sociological changes. The 'tipping point' is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate.

[A People's History of the United States](#) by Howard Zinn – Although this book is likely to be more interesting to Americans than citizens of other countries, it's truly a great read either way. Covering Christopher Columbus's arrival through President Clinton's years in office, as well as the 2000 election and the War on Terrorism, the book features an insightful and frank analysis of the most important events in American history told from the perspective of minorities and the working class.

[I Will Teach You To Be Rich](#) by Ramit Sethi – This is the ultimate personal finance book for twenty-somethings (and anyone else in need of a financial planning makeover). It's one thing to know about finance, another to be able to write about it, and another entirely to write about it in a way that aptly motivates the younger generation. Ramit hits the tri-ecta here. He tells you exactly what to do with your money and why.

[Career Renegade](#) by Jonathan Fields – This book is simply about building a great living around what you love to do most. And it's one of the best guides I've ever read on the subject. Fields, a big-time lawyer turned serial entrepreneur, shows you how to turn your passion - whether it's cooking or copywriting, teaching or playing video games - into a better payday and a richly satisfying career.

Ambrose, Stephen. *Undaunted Courage*. Follows the Lewis and Clark expedition from Thomas Jefferson's hope of finding a waterway to the Pacific, through the heart-stopping moments of the actual trip, to Lewis's lonely demise on the Natchez Trace. For readers who love detailed history.

Barry, John M. *The Great Influenza*. A detailed description of the scourge of the "Spanish flu" of 1918 with interesting elements of the practice of medicine and medical school in those days. Especially appealing for students who are science oriented.

Barry, John M. *Rising Tide*. An account of the flood of the Mississippi River in 1927. Elements are remarkably similar to the Katrina disaster. Students whose bent is engineering will find the fight of man vs. nature interesting. Connects well to American history, politics.

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. Truman Capote reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers...the story of the lives and deaths of these six people, the victims and the murderers. Ground breaking journalism that reads like fiction.

Collins, Larry and Dominique Lapierre. *Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler's Sentence of Death in August, 1944*. The dramatic story of the liberation of Paris...exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written. 2

Foer, Franklin. *How Soccer Explains the World*. Soccer is much more than a game, or even a way of life. It is a perfect window into the cross-currents of today's world, with all its joys and...sorrows...a wide-ranging work of reportage...a surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between...an utterly original book that makes sense of our troubled times.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. Explores the tipping point phenomenon—what causes a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*. A book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant...that aren't as simple as they seem...cutting edge neuroscience and psychology

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. Outlier" is a scientific term to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience. In the summer, in Paris, we expect most days to be somewhere between warm and very hot. But imagine if you had a day in the middle of August where the temperature fell below freezing. That day would be outlier. And while we have a very good understanding of why summer days in Paris are warm or hot, we know a good deal less about why a summer day in Paris might be freezing cold. In this book I'm interested in people who are outliers—in men and women who, for one reason or another, are so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience that they are as puzzling to the rest of us as a cold day in August.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *What the Dog Saw*: Malcolm Gladwell's new book, presents nineteen brilliantly researched and provocative essays that exhibit the curiosity his readers love, each with a graceful narrative that leads to a thought-provoking analysis

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men against the Sea*. Back cover description: In 1991, as Halloween nears, a cold front moves south from Canada, a hurricane swirls over Bermuda, and an intense storm builds over the Great Lakes...forces converge to create...a 100-year tempest that catches the North Atlantic fishing fleet off guard and unprotected. Readers weigh anchor with sailors struggling against the elements; they follow meteorologists, who watch helplessly as the storm builds; and, by helicopter and boat, they navigate 100-foot seas and 120-mph winds to attempt rescue against harrowing odds.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt Everest Disaster*. A harrowing tale of the perils of highaltitude climbing, a story of bad luck and worse judgment and heartbreaking heroism (People). The stuff of classic adventure tales...

Larson, Erik. *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*. Tale of early 20th Century Chicago World's Fair.

Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. Highly acclaimed, this book won numerous, highly prestigious prizes...considered readable, interesting, ground-breaking, and dazzling by critics.

Manchester, William. *A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance: Portrait of an Age*. This is the preeminent popular history of civilization's rebirth after the Dark Ages

Read, Piers Paul. *Alive. —Sixteen Men, Seventy-two Days, and Insurmountable Odds—The Classic Adventure of Survival in the Andes*.

Sacks, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales*. Psychology one of the great clinical writers of the 20th century (New York Times) recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders...stories of individuals afflicted with fantastic perceptual and intellectual aberrations.

Stanton, Doug. *Into Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors*. Best selling account of WW II naval disaster, (Japanese submarine torpedo's US ship in 1945)...a classic tale of war, survival, and extraordinary courage.

Soja, Edward. *Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places*. The book's central argument is that spatial thinking, or what has been called the geographical or spatial imagination, has tended to be bicameral, or confined to two approaches. Spatiality is either seen as concrete material forms to be mapped, analyzed, and explained; or as mental constructs, ideas about and representations of space and its social significance. Edward Soja critically re-evaluates this dualism to create an alternative approach, one that

comprehends both the material and mental dimensions of spatiality but also extends beyond them to new and different modes of spatial thinking.

Twenge, Jean M. *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—And More Miserable Than Ever Before* (2007).

Twenge, Jean M. *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement* (2009).

Zakaria, Fareed. *Post-America World*. An important book by one of today's most influential journalists.

Woolfe, Virginia. *A Room of Own's One*: Surprisingly, this long essay about society and art sexism is one of Woolfe's most accessible works. Woolfe, a major modernist writer and critic, takes us on an erudite yet conversational—and completely entertaining—walk around the history of women in writing, smoothly comparing the architecture of sentences by the likes of [William Shakespeare](#) and [Jane Austen](#), all the while lampooning the chauvinistic state of university education in the England of her day. When she concluded that to achieve their full greatness as writers, women will need a solid income and a privacy, Woolfe pretty much invented modern feminist criticism.

Woolfe, Virginia. *Three Guineas*: Like Virginia Woolfe's better known *A Room of One's Own*, *Three Guineas* is still timely and well worth the effort required to read it. In this book-length essay, an English writer responds to a letter - from a society for preventing war and protecting culture and intellectual liberty - which asks "How in your opinion are we to prevent war?" and requests a one guinea donation.

FICTION BEFORE 1900

Austen	<i>Mansfield Park</i>
Balzac	<i>Pere Goiot</i>
Bronte, E.	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>
Bronte, C.	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Cervantes	<i>Don Quixote</i>
Dickens	<i>David Copperfield</i>
Dickens	<i>Great Expectations</i>
Dinesen	<i>Out of Africa</i>
Dostoyevsky	<i>Crime and Punishment</i>
Dostoyevsky	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>
Dreiser	<i>An American Tragedy</i>
Dumas	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i>
Eliot	<i>Adam Bede</i>
Eliot	<i>Silas Marner</i>
Eliot	<i>The Mill on the Floss</i>
Eliot	<i>Middlemarch</i>
Flaubert	<i>Madame Bovary</i>
Forester	<i>Howard's End</i>
Forester	<i>Passage to India</i>
Goldsmith	<i>The Vicar of Wakefield</i>
Hardy	<i>Far From the Maddening Crowd</i>
Hardy	<i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i>

Hardy	<i>Jude the Obscure</i>
Hardy	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i>
Hugo	<i>Les Miserables</i>
Marlowe	<i>Dr. Faustus</i>
Moliere	<i>The Misanthrope</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Swift	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
Tolstoy	<i>War and Peace</i>
Tolstoy	<i>Anna Karenina</i>
Turgenev	<i>Fathers and Sons</i>
Voltaire	<i>Candide</i>
Wharton	<i>The Age of Innocence</i>
Wharton	<i>The House of Mirth</i>
Wilde	<i>An Ideal Husband</i>
FICTION AFTER 1900	
Agee	<i>A Death in the Family</i>
Allende	<i>The House of Spirits</i>
Alvarez	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>
Atkinson	<i>Behind the Scenes at the Museum</i>
Bausch	<i>Violence</i>
Beattie	<i>Chilly Scenes of Winter</i>
Bellow	<i>Henderson The Rain King</i>
Bowen	<i>Death of the Heart</i>
Brown	<i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i>
Camus	<i>The Stranger</i>
Camus	<i>The Plague</i>
Cather	<i>Death Comes for the Arch Bishop</i>
Christie	<i>Murder on The Orient Express</i>
Dorris	<i>A Yellow Raft in Blue Water</i>
Esquivel	<i>Like Water for Chocolate</i>
Fowles	<i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>
Garcia-Marquez	<i>One Hundred years of Solitude</i>
Garcia-Marquez	<i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i>
Gardner	<i>Grendel</i>
Goldman	<i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i>
Green	<i>The Heart of the Matter</i>
Hamilton	<i>The Book of Ruth</i>
Heller	<i>Catch 22</i>
Hesse	<i>Siddhartha</i>
Ishiguro	<i>The Remains of the Day</i>
James	<i>An Unsuitable Job for a Woman</i>
Kidd	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>
Kingsolver	<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>
McCarthy	<i>The Crossing</i>
McCourt	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>
McCuller	<i>The Heart is a Lonely Hunter</i>
Malamud	<i>The Assistant</i>
Maugham	<i>Of Human Bondage</i>

McEwan	<i>Atonement</i>
Morrison	<i>Beloved</i>
O'Conner	<i>The Violent Bear it Away</i>
Otto	<i>How to Make an American Quilt</i>
Pasternak	<i>Doctor Zhivago</i>
Patchet	<i>Bel Canto</i>
Plath	<i>The Bell Jar</i>
Potok	<i>My Name is Asher Lev</i>
Rand	<i>The Fountainhead</i>
Russo	<i>Empire Falls</i>
Salinger	<i>The Catcher and the Rye</i>
Smiley	<i>A Thousand Acres</i>
Solzhenitsen	<i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i>
Solzhenitsen	<i>The Gulag Archipelago</i>
Steinbeck	<i>East of Eden</i>
Tan	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>
Tan	<i>The Kitchen God's Wife</i>
Toole	<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i>
Updike	<i>The Centaur</i>
Vonnegut	<i>Slaughter House Five</i>
Welty	<i>The Optimist's Daughter</i>
Willis	<i>The Doomsday Book</i>
Woolfe	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
Woolfe	<i>To the Lighthouse</i>