

Recommended Reading List
FROM Current CAS students
TO City-As-School Students

READ- pick a book *or two!*

You can Google any of the following search options: “Young Adult reading lists”, “summer reading lists”, “Oprah Winfrey Book Club”, “New York Times Best Sellers” Lists (Fiction & Non-Fiction), “Barnes & Noble Favorites”, “The Classics”, “Coming-of-Age books”, “teen fiction”, “required high school reading list” or ask your friends or family what they have read.

Below are other books City-As-Students are reading or have listed as a favorite book they read.

Classic High School Reading Assignments:

To Kill A Mockingbird ****by Harper Lee. Small Southern town confronts bigotry and a corrupt legal system as an innocent black man is charged with a crime he did not commit.

The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Giver – Lois Lowry

Cannery Row - John Steinbeck

Breakfast of Champions - Kurt Vonnegut

Of Mice and Men -John Steinbeck

Frankenstein By Mary Shelley. A “mad” scientist animates dead flesh to create a living creature.

The Picture of Dorian Grey- by Oscar Wilde. A man makes a secret pact; he doesn’t age but the picture painted of him *does*. Knowing he is immortal, he embraces hedonism & debauchery on high!

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens.

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Catcher in the Rye- J.D. Salinger

Raisin in the Sun- Lorraine Hansberry

Crucible- Arthur Miller. Salem witch trials.

Death of a Salesman - Arthur Miller. A family have an existential crisis in which they confront by failed expectations.

Pride & Prejudice – Jane Austen

Romeo & Juliet – William Shakespeare. Two star crossed lovers.

Taming of the Shrew-by William Shakespeare. A rough woman is forced to settle down by society and her suitor so that she can marry.

Dante's Inferno- Dante Alighieri

Don Quixote- Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

The Things They Carried- Tim O'Brien

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett. An existential tragi-comedy play. "Tenderness for the whole human perplexity" – a reviewer observed. Two homeless men are waiting on a guy named "Godot" and bring us in through wordplay, poetry, dreamscapes the writer creates.

Cat's Cradle – by Kurt Vonnegut

"From the birth of the atomic bomb, to the end of the world, this book will forever change how you perceive satire and the written word".

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Lolita- by Vladimir Nabokov

" This book is beautifully written and has amazing poetic flow. It is about a man with many sick flaws but, you can see things from his point of view instead of hating him you begin to pity and sympathize with him".

Poetry Philosophy Psychology & Inspiration:

The Rose That Grew From Concrete – by Tupac Shakur

"It's a poetry written book by Tupac Shakur based on true life, his true feelings. Some of the best poetry I've ever read".

Candide (or Optimism) – by Voltaire

"Recommended for wonderers and wanderers".

Siddhartha – by Herman Hesse. Chronicles of a spiritual journeyman in search of Truth & meaning. About the life of Buddha.

Inside My Heart- Robin McGraw. Choosing to live w. passion and purpose

The Seat of the Soul- Gary Zukav

Staying Strong, 365 days a year - Demi Lavotos

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens – by Sean Covey

"You hate to admit it, but you could use all the help you can get."

Tao of Pooh- Benjamin Hoff Intro to Taoism.

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

"Great book because life is so precious"

Perks of Being a Wallflower- Stephen Chbosky. Young boy stepping out into the world.

The Way of The Peaceful Warrior – by Dan Millman

"An amazing spiritual quest story in the face of adversity".

The Alchemist holds the Guinness Book of World Records as most translated book in history. It is one of the most best-selling books in history. It is about a young shepherd who follows his spiritual journey to the Egyptian pyramids in search of treasure.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – by Ken Kesey."A 'sane' man in a mental institution, very symbolic"

48 LAWS OF POWER- by Robert Greene

The Alchemist, The Witch of Portabello, Veronica Decides To Die, The Zahir, Eleven Minutes by Paulo Coelho. People LOVE his work.

Memoir / Coming of Age

Drown by Junot Diaz. Short stories by this Dominican American author.

The Brief Wonderful Life of Oscar Wao – by Junot Diaz. This book has history, comics, sci – fi and magical realism

We Need to Talk About Kevin – by – Lionel Shriv

"Crazy book about high school shootings, read it".

Bodega Dreams- Ernesto Quinonez

She's Come Undone- Wally Lamb. Young woman falls apart and picks herself back up again.

Girl Interrupted

Me Talk Pretty One Day, Naked, David Sedaris. Humorous gay author writes about childhood and coming of age.

Running With Scissors – by Augusten Burroughs. Hilarious memoir.

AIMEE – by Mary Beth

"It's an amazing book that takes teen struggle to a new level and shows how it really is".

60's / 70's

Cherry – by Mary Karr. Memoir of adolescence.

"Coming of age in the 70's."

No One Here Gets Out Alive- Bio of Jim Morrison, the Doors classic rock band front man /singer 1960's.

The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test – by Tom Wolfe

"It's mind altering if you are a fan of all things psychedelic, then its perfect. Makes you wish you were growing up during the hippie counter culture".

Edie, An American Biography – by Jean Stein

" This book is about a girl who became a superstar then ruined her life with drugs. This book is worth reading if you like the 60's and trends and certain ways of life".

Mystery:

DaVinci Code, Angels and Demons , Digital Fortress , Deception Point - by Dan Brown. Formulaic code breaking action thriller books.

"All of his books are about code breaking, crime, suspense, thrill, action adventure, & history".

The Mist – by Stephen King

"The book was suspenseful and the movie was great".

And Then There Were None- Agatha Christie

The Shining – Stephen King. Family live on a mountain resort all alone and dad flips out psycho- killer style.

Patricia Cornwall- Horror author of a long series. Main character is Chief Medical Examiner and is called in by the CIA/FBI to solve murders.

Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie

The Thin Man - Dashiell Hammet

Urban or Hubba Hubba

Fifty Shades of Gray- E.L. James. Hubba hubba & then some.

Coldest Winter Ever- Sister Souljah. Urban Lit about a young girl from the PJs making bad choices until she gets her head together.

Taming the Beast – by Emily Maguire. "Sexy book for girls"

Native Son – by Richard Wright

"Story of a young black man in Chicago who is caught in the web of unintended actions; race, sex & violence."

Push by Sapphire. A young woman's suffering turns to triumph of spirit.

A Piece of Cake— by Cupcake Brown

"It's about a girl named Cupcake and how her life has never been the same after her mother died. Her best friend is drugs and they are also her downfall."

Handcuffs, Kisses & Awkward Situations- Olivia Harvard 2 BFF's become sworn enemies

Series:

Game of Thrones- George R.R. Martin

The Percy Jackson Series- Rick Riordan

House of Night- (a series) By Kristen and P.C. Cast. Vampire themed fantasy novels.

Princess Diaries (a series)- Meg Cabot. Teenage princess who lives in Greenwich Village gets through life and coming of age issues.

Witch Child- by Celia Rees. A young woman's diary tells of how she has kept hidden the fact that she is a witch.

Twilight - the Series by Stephanie Meyer

Harry Potter – the series by J.K. Rowling

Demo (vol. 1 & 2) - Brian Wood & Becky Cloonan

His Dark Materials (trilogy) - Phillip Pullman

The Golden Compass

The Subtle Knife

The Amber Spyglass

Monstrous Regiment- By Terry Pratchett. This is part of a popular fantasy series called "Discworld".

In Persuasion Nation - George Saunders

Ender's Game- By Orson Scott Card.

Zombie & Vampire Lit:

The Forest of Hands and Teeth – by Carrie Ryan. In a sisterhood a young woman must choose between her village and her future.

Warm Bodies- by Isaac Marion. Zombie – human love affair.

Feed- (a trilogy) by Mira Grant. An unintended consequence of curing the common cold leads to, you guessed it, a zombie apocalypse!

Breathers – by S.G. Browne. A romantic zombie comedy.

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies- by Seth Grahme-Smith. An expanded version on the original with zombie-fication.
Circus of the Damned, Affliction, The Lunatic Café - By Laurell K. Hamilton. "b/c they're the best you'll ever read especially if you're into gore and vampires."

Dystopic Futuristic Lit:

Brave New World - by Aldous Huxley. A scary futuristic caste system in which everyone is sedated, babies are born in labs and everything is provided for the citizens.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Futuristic(?) society in which reading is illegal and independent thought is restricted.

Animal Farm by George Orwell. A farm is taken over by the animals.

1984 by George Orwell. A man's job is to rewrite history. He tries to rebel against this totalitarian society.

Anthem Ayn Rand

Middle School Faves

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG, Matilda - By Roald Dahl. "I recommend any book or short story. He's crazy and amusing. His books are the best you'll ever read!"

Grimm's Fairy Tales- by the Brothers Grimm. A collection of creepy children's folk stories.

Edgar Allan Poe – any short stories

Assorted Titles

Choke – by Chuck Palahniuk (author of Fight Club)

"It's hard to be positive on what's going on in the book but it is hilarious & fascinating. It is about a recovering sex addict who goes into restaurants and fakes choking to inspire others to heroic levels of action". Wacky but good

Invisible Monsters– by Chuck Palahniuk. Twisted and funny.

The Color of Water – by James McBride

"A white orthodox Jewish girl escapes to Harlem, marries a black man, starts a Baptist church & puts 12 kids through college. True story.

Aimee – by Mary Beth

"It's an amazing book that takes teen struggle to a new level and shows how it really is".

Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs – by Chuck Klosterman

"It's the most honest book and best reflection of our society I've come across".

Kite Runner - by Khaled Hosseini

Woman At Point Zero by Nawal El Saadawi. Egyptian prostitute is imprisoned.

Howl's Moving Castle – By Dianna Wynne Jones. Fantasy

Daytripper - Gabriel Ba & Fabio Moon

My Sister's Keeper- Jodi Picoult

A Complicated Kindness - Miriam Toews

Shiver & Linger- Maggie Stiefvater

Wolves of the Beyond- Kathryn Lasky

A Father First- Dwyane Wade

The Motel Life - Willy Vlautin

The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman

Anansi Boys - Neil Gaiman

The Shipping News - Annie Proulx

Franny & Zooey - J.D. Salinger

Down & Out in Paris and London - George Orwell. Food & destitution. A journalistic travelogue from the 1930's.

The Wicked Pavilion - Dawn Powell

Looking For Alaska^{***} - John Green

A Complicated Kindness by Miriam Toews

A Confederacy of Dunces – by John Kennedy Toole

Classic off-beat humor & mad cap adventure set in New Orleans.

In Cold Blood – by Truman Capote . " A book about two men who kill a whole family. Capote tries to find the truth about what happened and why they did it".

Bringing Out the Dead by Joe Connelly. "It's a full circle slap in the face of reality" "Adventures of an ambulance driver/EMT".

An Abundance of Katherines^{***}- by John Green. A young man, a road trip, a “Eureka” moment and love. “All John Greene’s books are great”

Twelve Dreams by James Lapine. A psychiatrist struggles to make sense of twelve dreams his eight year old daughter had and wrote about.

House of Mirth- by Edith Wharton. A young woman struggles to love who she wants and keep her place in society in spite of gossip and scandal.

The Hours- by Michael Cunningham. 3 Generations of an exciting family come together and examine their whole existence

The Belgariad- David Eddings

10 Mile River- Paul Griffin

Gravity's Rainbow – by Thomas Pynchon. Post WWII in Europe. Complex and lengthy scientific novel.

Wind in the Willows- Kenneth Grahame

After the Quake by Haruki Murakami. Short stories set in Japan after the huge earth quake in 1995.

Kafka on the Shore – by Haruki Murakami. If you like surrealism, Murakami is your man.

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Non-Fiction:

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser. An investigative journalist looks at what America is eating. "Fascinating behind the scenes food info."

The Seat of the Soul- Gary Zukav

Staying Strong, 365 days a year - Demi Lavotos

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens – by Sean Covey

"You hate to admit it, but you could use all the help you can get."

Stiff - Mary Roach. What science and others do with your body when you die. Gross and fascinating; not for the weak stomachs. Funny writer.

100 Biggest Feuds in Science

"Amazing book that tells what went on behind the scenes of the greatest controversies in science"

Outliers by - Malcolm Gladwell

Blink By Malcolm Gladwell

The Happiness Project- Gretchen Rubin

Food of the Gods The Search for the Original Tree of Knowledge- by Terence McKenna. A Radical History of Plants, Drugs, and Human Evolution

Underground-by Haruki Murakami. He details the events of the 1995 Tokeyo Sarin gas event .

Cinema Scope- magazine for film reviews