

SHARED READING (for World Civ II): all students must read *1984* by George Orwell. Science fiction. 1948. Winston Smith, a worker at the Ministry of Truth in the future political entity of Oceania, puts his life on the line when he joins a covert brotherhood in rebelling against the Party that controls all human thought and action.

In addition to *1984*, each student must read TWO books from the list below:

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.** Science fiction/ dystopian. 1985. In what was once the United States, now called the Republic of Gilead, the ruling class reacts to social unrest and a declining birth rate with extremely repressive policies.

***Emma* by Jane Austen.** Classic, humor. 1815. In the provincial world of Highbury, Emma Woodhouse plays matchmaker, sometimes with unintended consequences.

***The Little Girls* by Elizabeth Bowen.** Adventure. 1964. In 1914, three eleven-year-old girls buried a box in a thicket on the coast of England shortly before World War I sent their lives on divergent paths. Nearly fifty years later, their paths cross again.

***A Testament of Youth* by Vera Brittain.** Nonfiction; memoir. 1933. Tells of the author's time as a nurse in the armed services during World War I, covering her work in London, Malta, and near France's Western Front.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.** Classic. 1847. Jane, a plain and penniless orphan in nineteenth-century England, accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her melancholy employer, a man with a terrible secret. (Note: those who read *Jane Eyre* could consider reading its modern heir, *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys afterwards; see below.)

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.** Classic. 1848. The passionate love story of stubborn Cathy and wild-as-the-wind Heathcliff in the rugged land of the Yorkshire moors has been a favorite since its publication.

***Possession* by A.S. Byatt.** Historical fiction; Mystery. 1990. Booker Prize winner. The tale of two young scholars researching the lives of two Victorian poets; a novel of wit and romance, at once an intellectual mystery and a triumphant love story.

***Jack Maggs* by Peter Carey.** Mystery. 1997. A boy who was deported to Australia for thieving, returns to London in 1837 as a grown man and becomes acquainted with an author who is fascinated by mesmerism and the criminal mind.

***Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke.** Fantasy. 2010. In 1806, most people believe magic to be dead in England--until the reclusive Mr. Norrell reveals his powers and another magician emerges: the young, daring Jonathan Strange.

***Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.** Adventure; Classic. 1719. An Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.** Classic. 1859. "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Thus begins the tale of Sydney Carton, a disreputable lawyer, and his involvement in the French Revolution.

***Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow.** Science fiction. 2008. In San Francisco, having been interrogated for days by officials of a police state that has emerged after a terrorist attack, seventeen-year-old Marcus decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

***Paddy Clarke, Ha Ha Ha* by Roddy Doyle.** Historical fiction. 1995. Booker Prize winner. This witty and poignant novel charts the triumphs, indignities, and bewilderment of ten-year-old Paddy as he tries to make sense of things in 1968 in Ireland.

***Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier.** Classic; suspense. 1938. The second Mrs. de Winter narrates the haunting events surrounding her marriage to Maxim de Winter and her growing obsession with his mysterious first wife, the beautiful, now dead Rebecca.

***Good to a Fault* by Marina Endicott.** *Realistic fiction.* 2011. Clara Purdy finds her predictable, middle-aged life shaken when she tries to do the right thing by taking in a family after crashing their car and learning that the mother has late-stage cancer.

***The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde.** *Fantasy; humor.* 2001. Thursday Next works in Literary Detection in a surreal version of Great Britain, circa 1985, where time travel and cloning are commonplace.

***A Room With A View* by E.M. Forster.** *Classic.* 1908. A charming young English woman is at war with the snobbery of her own class and with her conflicting desires when she finds herself attracted to someone deemed unsuitable for her.

***My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin.** *Historical fiction.* 1980. A semi-autobiographical novel of a hot-tempered girl growing up in Australia around 1900, who aspires to become a person of note despite the prejudices against women at that time.

***Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy; humor.* 1996. The world will come to an end next Saturday. Except: a fast-living demon and a fussy angel have grown fond of Earth's mortals and decide to try to stop the Apocalypse.

***Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons.** *Classic; humor.* 1932. Flora Poste finds herself in a gloomy, overwrought world and proceeds to organize everyone out of their romantic tragedies and into the pleasures of modern life in the 1930s.

***Our Man in Havana* by Graham Greene.** *Adventure.* 1958. A vacuum cleaner salesman who is short of money accepts an assignment as an M16 agent in Havana, where soon his faked intelligence reports start coming true.

***The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro.** *Classic.* 1990. Stevens, a butler at the end of three decades of service at Darlington Hall, recalls his career and tries to assure himself that he has served humanity by serving the "great gentleman," Lord Darlington.

***A Certain Justice* by P.D. James.** *Mystery.* 1997. A lawyer is murdered soon after successfully defending her client who was on trial for murder. An investigator learns the client recently became engaged to the lawyer's daughter. Is there a connection?

***Unmarriageable* by Soniah Kamal.** 2019. Set in modern day Pakistan, Alys Binat has sworn never to marry--until an encounter with one Mr. Darsee at a wedding makes her reconsider. A modern retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

***Small Island* by Andrea Levy.** *Realistic fiction.* 2005. Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 hoping to start a new life with her husband, but they find themselves struggling to fit into the strange culture of their foreign "motherland."

***Master of Thin Air: Life and Death on the World's Highest Peaks* by Andrew Lock.** *Nonfiction; memoir.* 2014. Opens with a fall down an almost vertical rock ramp and recounts Lock's sixteen-year journey to summit all of the world's eight-thousanders.

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.** *Science fiction.* 2014. In a pandemic-ravaged society, actress Kirsten Raymonde travels with a troupe performing Shakespeare and finds herself in a community in which a prophet will not let anyone leave alive.

***Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt.** *Nonfiction; memoir.* 1996. The luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland.

***Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan.** *Realistic fiction.* 1997. After a chance meeting, Jed Perry begins to stalk author Joe Rose. Driven by religious zeal and misdirected love, the strange young man will slowly unravel each strand of Joe's life.

***Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell.** *Historical fiction.* 2006. Tracks a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor in a Worcestershire village in 1982 as the Cold War is coming near an end in England.

***The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje.** *Historical fiction.* 2011. Michael, now an adult, recalls the three-week long sea voyage he took as a boy in the early 1950s. During the trip across the Indian Ocean the boy meets a variety of characters on board.

***White is for Witching* by Helen Oyeyemi.** *Mystery* 2014. Sixteen-year-old Miranda struggles against the menacing haunted house she inhabits and a rare eating disease that causes her to eat non-edible substances.

***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.** *Classic*. 1948. A Zulu pastor and his son's struggles under white rule in South Africa.

***Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal* by Mal Peet.** *Historical Fiction*. 2010. When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box of coded messages. Out of the past comes another Tamar a resistance fighter from Nazi-occupied Holland.

***Nation* by Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy; alternate history*. 2008. After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, set about rebuilding their community.

***Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys.** *Adventure; classic*. 1966. Postcolonial novel centered upon Bertha, the Jamaican madwoman in the attic in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, to which this novel could make an interesting follow-up read.

***Sugar in the Blood: A Family's Story of Slavery and Empire* by Andrea Stuart.** *Nonfiction; history*. 2013. Stuart uses her own family's Caribbean story as the pivot for this epic tale of migration, colonialism, slavery, settlement, and survival.

***Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.** *Adventure; satire; classic*. 1726. Recounts four remarkable journeys of a ship's surgeon, Lemuel Gulliver, including one stay in a land of six-inch-high people and another in a land of giants.

***The Loved One* by Evelyn Waugh.** *Historical fiction; satire*. 1948. Evelyn Waugh's biting satire about life in 1940s California and the American obsession with death and burial--and pets.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.** *Classic*. 1891. A handsome, dissolute man who sells his soul for eternal youth is horrified to see the reflection of his degeneration in the distorted features of his portrait.

***The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester.** *Nonfiction; history*. 2009. The Oxford English Dictionary took seventy years to complete, drawing from tens of thousands of brilliant minds. Hidden within the rituals of the OED's creation is a fascinating and mysterious story of two of them.

***Jeeves in the Morning* by P.G. Wodehouse.** *Classic, humor*. 1946. Bertie Wooster, a dimwitted aristocrat with a heart of gold, is soon embroiled in a host of calamitous mishaps. Fortunately, Bertie's butler Jeeves is always nearby to perform a rescue.