

**Sumter School District
Protected Novel List
Grades 6 - 12**



The purpose of the SSD protected novel list is to reserve certain books for particular grade/course level where they best suit the curriculum, standards, readability, and appropriateness for students in that grade or course. Because no one measure of text complexity exists, educators must use a combination of quantitative measures (i.e., Lexile Levels), qualitative measures, and reader/task considerations. Lexile Levels are calculated using quantitative factors such as sentence length and word-frequency characteristics that match the text with a general grade level or grade band. Qualitative measures such as knowledge demands and text structure must also be considered. Finally, educators must consider how the text is suited for the reader and the task. Educators can use a [literary text complexity rubric](#) to determine which novels are appropriate for their students within the available choices for that grade/course level. More information regarding text complexity can be found in the SCDE resource [Text Complexity Resources to support the 2024 SC CCR ELA Standards](#).

Sixth Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	Grade Level	Suggested SSD Unit Pairing	Book Summary
<i>The Giver</i>	Lowry, Lois	760L	6-12	Unit 1	Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.
<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Ryan, Pam Munoz	750L	4-7	Unit 2	Esperanza's life of luxury in Mexico abruptly ends when tragedy strikes, forcing her and her mother to flee to a California farm workers' camp during the Great Depression. Struggling with harsh labor, financial woes, and societal rejection, Esperanza must summon resilience to protect her family's future in the face of looming threats.
<i>Dragonwings</i>	Yep, Laurence	870L	5-9	Unit 3	In the early 20th century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.
<i>Pax</i>	Pennypacker, Sara	760L	3-7	Unit 4	Sara Pennypacker's poignant novel delves into the unbreakable bond between a boy named Peter and his fox companion, Pax, who are forcibly separated when Peter's father joins the military. Determined to reunite despite the encroaching war, Peter embarks on a journey of love, loyalty, and grief, while Pax awaits his return, embarking on his own adventures of discovery.

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<i>Hatchet</i>	<i>Paulsen, Gary</i>	1020L	5-9	Unit 5	Headed for Canada to visit his father for the first time since his parents' divorce, 13-year-old Brian is the sole survivor of a plane crash, with only the clothes he has on and a hatchet to help him live in the wilderness. A Newbery Honor Book.
Additional Grade 6 Protected Novels					
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Rawls, Wilson	700L	4-9		Young Billy having purchased two dogs for fifty dollars is determined to create the valley's best hunting team
<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i>	Yolen, Jane	730L	5-7		Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.
<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Riordan, Rick	740L	5-8		After learning that the father he never knew is an ancient Greek god, Percy Jackson is transferred from boarding school to Camp Half-Blood, a summer camp for demigods, and becomes involved in a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
<i>Juile of the Wolves</i>	George, Jean Craighead	860L	5-9		While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a 13-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.
<i>Black Beauty</i>	Sewell, Anna	900L	5-7		Told from his own perspective, Black Beauty recounts his journey as a horse in a time when they were integral to daily life, experiencing both joy and cruelty as he transitions between various owners and environments. Originally penned in 1877 to advocate for the humane treatment of horses, Black Beauty remains a timeless classic and a poignant reminder of our responsibility towards animals.
<i>Old Yeller</i>	Gipson, Fred	910L	4-7		In the rugged landscape of early frontier Texas,14-year-old Travis is faced with taking over his family's farm and making a painful, important decision.
<i>The Dark is Rising</i>	Cooper, Susan	920L	6-7		On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton learns he's the last of the Old Ones, tasked with finding the six magical Signs of Light to prevent the world from falling into darkness. As the Dark rises during the twelve days

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					of Christmas, Will's life is filled with wonder, terror, and delight in this epic battle between good and evil.
<i>Lottery Rose</i>	Hunt, Irene	1070L	3-7		In Irene Hunt's moving tale "The Lottery Rose," Georgie Burgess, enduring abuse in silence, finds solace in nurturing a rosebush he wins in a lottery. As he navigates a journey from hardship to hope, Georgie discovers the transformative power of love and acceptance through the connections he makes with others.
<i>On My Honor</i>	Bauer, Marion Dane	950L	4-7		When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.
<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	Stevenson, Daniel	1070L	7-12		As the sole survivor of a shipwreck, an Englishman lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.
<i>The Story of My Life</i>	Keller, Helen	1090L	5-6		Helen Keller, who became deaf and blind at nineteen months, triumphed over adversity with the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan, mastering language and inspiring generations. Her autobiography, complemented by selected letters, captures her remarkable journey from darkness to enlightenment.
<i>The Land I Lost</i>	Hujnh, Quan Nhuomg	1090L	4-8		Huynh Quang Nhuong grew up in the highlands of Vietnam, next to the jungle teeming with wildlife. Encounters with tigers, wild hogs, and deadly snakes were as much a part of his life as tending the rice fields while on the back of his pet water buffalo, Tank.

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Seventh Grade

Title	Author	Lexile	Grade Level	Suggested SSD Unit Pairing	Book Summary
<i>Monster*</i>	Myers, Walter Dean	670L	7-12	Unit 1	While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.
<i>A Long Walk to Water*</i>	Park, Linda Sue	720L	5-9	Unit 2	"A Long Walk to Water" tells the parallel stories of Nya, who fetches water daily in Sudan in 2008, and Salva, a "lost boy" fleeing Sudan in 1985. Salva's journey, marked by peril and resilience, intersects with Nya's in a moving narrative that underscores their shared experiences and struggles.
<i>Ender's Game*</i>	Orson Scott Card	780L	7-12	Unit 3	Government agencies breed child geniuses to defend against an imminent alien threat, and young Ender Wiggin, a brilliant but conflicted boy, emerges as a formidable leader in rigorous military training. As Ender navigates isolation, rivalry, and his own inner turmoil, he grapples with the weight of his responsibility to save humanity while battling the fear of becoming like his sadistic brother and yearning for connection with his beloved sister.
<i>Peak*</i>	Smith, Roland	760L	7-12	Unit 4	After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached.
<i>The Crossover*</i>	Alexander, Kwame	750L	4-7	Unit 5	In dynamic verse, twelve-year-old Josh Bell navigates his prowess on the basketball court and his passion for music, but when his twin brother Jordan's newfound romance threatens their bond, their winning season takes an unexpected turn in this fast-paced and heartfelt middle-grade novel.
<i>Additional Protected 7th Grade Novels</i>					
<i>Out of the Dust</i>	Hesse, Karen	NP	5-8		A poem cycle that reads as a novel narrates the story of 15-year-old Billie Jo and her battle against the elements during the Oklahoma Dust Bowl of 1934.

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<i>Holes</i>	Sachar, Louis	660L	5-8		Recipient of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award, "Holes" follows Stanley Yelnats as he grapples with a family curse at Camp Green Lake, where boys are tasked with digging holes under the guise of character building, uncovering hidden motives and mysteries buried beneath the desolate landscape in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of redemption.
<i>Tangerine</i>	Bloor, Edward	680L	6-9		Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
<i>A Wrinkle in Time*</i>	L'Engle, Madeleine	740L	5-9	Unit 3	Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.
<i>Lupita Manana</i>	Beatty, Patricia	760L	4-7		Crossing the border from Mexico to America proves perilous for Lupita, whose family faces poverty after her father's death, leading Lupita and her brother to risk smuggling themselves into the United States to support their family. Despite the hardships of a new language, hard labor, and the fear of immigration authorities, Lupita remains resilient, holding onto hope for a brighter tomorrow.
<i>Life As We Knew It</i>	Pfieffer, Susan Beth	770L	7-12		When a meteor pushes the moon closer to the earth, setting into motion a series of destructive weather events that wipe out coasts, rock the continents, and block out the sun, Miranda and her family must find a way to survive in a desperate and unfamiliar world.
<i>Goodbye Vietnam</i>	Whelan, Gloria	810L	4-7		Thirteen-year-old Mai and her family embark on a dangerous sea voyage from Vietnam to Hong Kong to escape the unpredictable and often brutal Vietnamese government.
<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>	Speare, Elizabeth Gordon	850L	6-9		Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler faces suspicion and disapproval upon arriving in colonial Connecticut in 1687 after being forced to leave her home in Barbados. Amidst her struggle for belonging, Kit forms a taboo friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed to be a witch, challenging Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.
<i>The Cay</i>	Taylor, Theodore	860L	4-7		Follows the adventures, joys, and heartaches of a privileged and prejudiced Dutch boy stranded on a remote tropical island with a kindly

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					and wise West Indian, following an enemy attack on a boat leaving Curacao.
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dickens, Charles	900L	7-12		This engrossing tale relates Ebenezer Scrooge's ghostly journeys through Christmases past, present, and future and his ultimate transformation from a harsh and grasping old miser to a charitable and compassionate human being.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Curtis, Christopher Paul	950L	3-7		Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Woodson, Jacqueline	990L	5-10		Jacqueline Woodson, a celebrated writer, reflects on her childhood in verse, moving between South Carolina and New York, capturing the essence of growing up African American in the 1960s and 1970s amidst the remnants of Jim Crow and the emergence of the Civil Rights movement. Her poignant poetry also highlights her journey of finding her voice through storytelling despite early struggles with reading.
<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963</i>	Curtis, Christopher Paul	1000L	5-8		Embark on a comedic journey with ten-year-old Kenny and his quirky family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan, including Momma, Dad, sister Joetta, and troublemaking brother Byron. When Byron's antics become too much, they head to Birmingham to visit Grandma, only to find themselves caught in the midst of a pivotal moment when her church is bombed.

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Eighth Grade

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<i>Fuzzy*</i>	Angleberger, Tom & Dellinger, Paul	700L	3-8	Unit 1	Middle school readers will be engrossed in this fast-paced story where Maxine and her robot classmate, Fuzzy, navigate the ups and downs of middle school. Unbeknownst to them, the school's digital system, BARBARA, poses a threat that turns surviving seventh grade into a life-and-death situation.
<i>A Monster Calls*</i>	Ness, Patrick	730L	7-12	Unit 2	In this haunting tale by Patrick Ness, thirteen-year-old Conor grapples with his seriously ill mother and an unexpected monster who seeks something terrible from him. Spun from the final idea of Siobhan Dowd, the novel delves into themes of mischief, loss, and the blurred lines between reality and imagination.
<i>Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl*</i>	Frank, Anne	1080L	7-12	Unit 3	A young girl's journal records her family's struggles during two years of hiding from the Nazis in war-torn Holland.
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*</i>	Taylor, Mildred	920L	5-9	Unit 4	Facing a year of night riders and burnings, Cassie and her family continue their struggle to keep their land and hold onto what rightfully belongs to them, despite the difficult battles they must continue to endure. Winner of the Newbery Medal.
<i>The Outsiders*</i>	Hinton, S.E.	750L	7-12	Unit 5	Ponyboy finds solace in the stability of his brothers and loyal friends, but the constant threat from the vicious Socs disrupts his sense of security. However, when a violent incident pushes boundaries too far, Ponyboy's world is shattered, challenging everything he thought he knew.
Additional Protected Novels					
<i>Nothing But the Truth</i>	Avi	NP	7-12		Determined to get even with English teacher Miss Narwin for keeping him off the track team, Philip Malloy decides to hum along with the tape of "The Star-Spangled Banner," in violation of school rules.
<i>Twelve Angry Men</i>	Rose, Reginald	NP	7-12		A compelling courtroom drama revolving around the trial of a boy accused of killing his father, where one man, a single hold-out juror, stands between the accused and capital punishment.

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<i>Stargirl</i>	Jerry Spinelli	590L	7-12		"Stargirl" by Jerry Spinelli is a novel about a unique and free-spirited girl named Stargirl Caraway who shakes up the conventional atmosphere of Mica High School with her unusual behavior and nonconformity. As she navigates the challenges of high school, she captivates and then alienates her classmates, leading to a profound impact on the school's culture and on the protagonist, Leo Borlock, who becomes romantically involved with her. The story explores themes of individuality, peer pressure, and the courage to be oneself.
<i>Bronx Masquerade</i>	Nikki Grimes	670L	7-12		When Wesley Boone writes a poem for his high school English class, some of his classmates clamor to read their poems aloud too. Through the poetry, they share narratives in which they reveal their most intimate thoughts about themselves and one another.
<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	Sandra Cisneros	870L	7-12		For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness.
<i>Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad</i>	Petry, Ann	1000L	7-12	Unit 4	A biography of the woman whose cruel experiences as a slave in the South led her to seek freedom in the North for herself and for others through the Underground Railroad.
<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	Hunt, Irene	1100L	7-12		Each succeeding spring brings a young Illinois boy closer to manhood as he faces the harsh realities of the American Civil War.
<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	London, Jack	1120L	7-12	Unit 5	A classic novel of adventure, drawn from London's own experiences as a Klondike adventurer, relating the story of a heroic dog, who, caught in the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning.
<i>Little Women</i>	Alcott, Louisa May	1210L	5-12		The lives and adventures of the four March sisters--Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy--are set against the backdrop of 19th-century New England while their father is off fighting in the Civil War.

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English 1 CP & English 1 Honors

Title	Author	Lexile	Book Summary
<i>The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare is a timeless tale of two young lovers from feuding families in Verona, whose passionate romance leads to both joy and heartbreak. Despite their families' hatred, Romeo and Juliet secretly marry, hoping to reconcile their differences. However, a series of misunderstandings and unfortunate events culminate in their tragic deaths, ultimately uniting their families in grief.
<i>Romiette and Julio</i>	Sharon Draper	610L	<i>Romiette and Julio</i> by Sharon M. Draper is a modern retelling of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," set in Cincinnati, where two teenagers, Romiette Cappelle and Julio Montague, fall in love despite their cultural differences and the disapproval of their families and peers. As their relationship grows, they face threats from a local gang that disapproves of their interracial romance, putting their lives in danger. With determination and the help of their friends, they confront the challenges and strive to overcome the obstacles to their love.
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	730L	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. An unforgettable novel about the ability of books to feed the soul.
<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>	John Green	850L	<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> by John Green is a poignant novel that follows the story of Hazel Grace Lancaster, a sixteen-year-old cancer patient, who meets and falls in love with Augustus Waters, a fellow cancer survivor. The two embark on an unforgettable journey to Amsterdam to meet a reclusive author, grappling with love, loss, and the harsh realities of their illnesses. The novel explores themes of mortality, hope, and the enduring impact of a brief yet profound connection.
<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee	870L	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee is a poignant novel set in the racially segregated South, where young Scout Finch grows up witnessing her father, Atticus Finch, defend a black man, Tom Robinson, falsely accused of raping a white woman. Through Scout's eyes, the story explores themes of racial injustice, moral growth, and the loss of innocence as the community's deep-seated prejudices come to light. The novel highlights the importance of empathy and understanding in challenging societal inequalities.
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury	890L	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury is a dystopian novel set in a future where books are banned and "firemen" burn any that are found. The story follows Guy Montag, a fireman who becomes disillusioned with his society's anti-intellectualism and starts questioning the purpose of his

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			work. As he discovers the transformative power of literature, Montag rebels against the oppressive regime, seeking freedom and enlightenment.
<i>Bad Boy: A Memoir</i>	Walter Dean Myers	970L	<i>Bad Boy</i> by Walter Dean Myers is a memoir detailing the author's tumultuous childhood in Harlem, marked by a passion for reading and writing amidst struggles with a turbulent home life and identity as an African American. As he navigates the challenges of adolescence, including bouts of rebellion and encounters with racism, Myers finds solace and purpose in literature. His journey of self-discovery ultimately leads him to embrace his talents and pursue a career as a writer.
<i>The Pearl*</i>	John Steinbeck	1010L	<i>The Pearl</i> by John Steinbeck tells the story of Kino, a poor pearl diver who discovers an enormous and valuable pearl that he hopes will bring prosperity to his family. However, the pearl brings only greed, envy, and violence, as others seek to take advantage of Kino and his newfound wealth. The story ultimately explores themes of ambition, corruption, and the destructive nature of greed.
<i>The Odyssey</i>	Homer	1050L	<i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer is an epic poem recounting the adventurous journey of Odysseus as he strives to return home to Ithaca after the Trojan War. Along the way, he faces numerous challenges, including the wrath of gods, mythical creatures, and treacherous landscapes, while his faithful wife, Penelope, and son, Telemachus, fend off suitors vying for his throne. The tale highlights themes of perseverance, loyalty, and the enduring power of wit and cunning.
<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell	1170L	<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell is an allegorical novella in which farm animals overthrow their human owner in a bid for freedom and equality, only to see their society become equally oppressive under the leadership of the pigs. Led by Napoleon, the pigs gradually seize power, manipulating language and rewriting history to maintain control over the other animals. The story serves as a critique of totalitarian regimes, illustrating the corruption of revolutionary ideals and the cyclical nature of power and oppression.

***Honors Required Reading**

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English 2 CP & English 2 Honors

Title	Author	Lexile	Book Summary
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Lorraine Hansberry	NP	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry is a powerful drama that centers on the Younger family, an African American family in Chicago striving for a better life amidst racial and economic hardships. The family awaits a life insurance check and each member has different dreams for how to use the money, leading to conflicts and difficult choices. The play explores themes of racial discrimination, family bonds, and the pursuit of dreams in the face of adversity.
<i>Antigone</i>	Sophocles	NP	<i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles is a Greek tragedy that follows the story of Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus, as she defies King Creon's edict to leave her brother Polynices unburied as punishment for his rebellion. Driven by familial duty and divine law, Antigone's act of defiance leads to her arrest and a series of tragic events that devastate the royal family. The play explores themes of civil disobedience, loyalty, and the conflict between human law and divine justice.
Macbeth	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare is a dark tragedy that chronicles the rise and fall of Macbeth, a Scottish nobleman driven by ambition and prophecy. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan to seize the throne, but his guilt and paranoia lead to a tyrannical and bloody reign. The play delves into themes of power, ambition, and the destructive effects of unchecked ambition and moral corruption.
Julius Caesar	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>Julius Caesar</i> by William Shakespeare is a historical tragedy that centers on the political conspiracy against the Roman dictator Julius Caesar, his assassination, and its aftermath. As Brutus and Cassius lead the plot to kill Caesar, they grapple with their own motives and the consequences of their actions, leading to a civil war. The play explores themes of power, betrayal, honor, and the complexity of political morality.
<i>Night</i>	Elie Wiesel	590L	<i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel is a harrowing memoir recounting the author's experiences as a Jewish teenager during the Holocaust. Elie and his family are deported to Auschwitz, where he endures unimaginable horrors, the loss of his family, and a profound crisis of faith. The book serves as a powerful testament to the atrocities of the Holocaust and the enduring human spirit in the face of unimaginable suffering.
<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Chinua Achebe	890L	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe is a compelling novel that follows the life of Okonkwo, a proud and ambitious Igbo warrior in pre-colonial Nigeria. Okonkwo's life begins to unravel as he struggles to uphold his traditional values against the changes brought by British colonialism.

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			and Christian missionaries. The novel explores themes of cultural clash, tradition, and the impact of colonialism on indigenous societies.
<i>Enter Three Witches</i>	Caroline B. Cooney	900L	<i>Enter Three Witches</i> by William Shakespeare is a dramatic adaptation of the three witches' pivotal scenes from Macbeth, exploring the supernatural elements that influence the protagonist's descent into tyranny. The play focuses on the witches' prophecies and their manipulation of Macbeth, setting the stage for his ambitious and violent actions. Through their enigmatic and malevolent presence, the witches drive the central themes of fate, ambition, and moral corruption in Shakespeare's tragedy.
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	Amy Tan	930L	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> by Amy Tan is a poignant novel that weaves together the stories of four Chinese-American immigrant families in San Francisco who start a club to play mahjong and share their life experiences. Through the narratives of the mothers and their daughters, the book explores themes of cultural identity, generational conflict, and the complexities of mother-daughter relationships. The novel highlights the struggles and triumphs of adapting to a new culture while preserving the ties to one's heritage.
<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	Ernest Hemingway	940L	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> by Ernest Hemingway is a classic novella that tells the story of Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who endures a grueling battle with a giant marlin in the Gulf Stream. Despite his prolonged struggle and ultimate defeat as sharks devour his prize catch, Santiago's unwavering determination and resilience shine through. The novella explores themes of pride, perseverance, and the enduring human spirit against the forces of nature.
<i>Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands</i>	Susan Carol McCarthy	940L	<i>Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands</i> by Susan Carol McCarthy is a gripping novel set in the racially charged South during the 1950s, following the life of a young girl named Ray, whose father, a civil rights activist, is brutally murdered by white supremacists. As Ray grows up, she grapples with the impact of her father's death and her own evolving role in the struggle for justice and equality. The novel explores themes of racial injustice, family legacy, and the courage to confront hatred and fight for what is right.
<i>A Separate Peace</i> *	John Knowles	1110L	<i>A Separate Peace</i> by John Knowles is a coming-of-age novel set at a New England prep school during World War II, focusing on the intense friendship between two boys, Gene Forrester and Phineas. The story delves into themes of rivalry, guilt, and the loss of innocence as Gene's jealousy and insecurities lead to a tragic accident that forever alters their lives. Through its exploration of personal conflict and the impact of war, the novel highlights the complexities of adolescence and the search for identity.

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English 3 CP & English 3 Honors

Title	Author	Lexile	Book Summary
<i>The Crucible</i>	Arthur Miller	NP	<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller is a powerful drama set during the Salem witch trials of 1692, focusing on the hysteria and moral conflict that ensue when a group of girls accuses townspeople of witchcraft. As fear and suspicion spread, the town is consumed by a wave of accusations, leading to tragic consequences for many innocent people. The play serves as an allegory for the Red Scare and explores themes of paranoia, integrity, and the destructive power of mass hysteria.
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck	630L	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck is a poignant novella that follows the lives of two displaced migrant workers, George and Lennie, who dream of owning their own land during the Great Depression. Their friendship and aspirations are tested by Lennie's unwitting strength and a series of tragic events that highlight the harsh realities of their world. The novella explores themes of loneliness, the fragility of dreams, and the bond between friends amidst a backdrop of economic hardship and social isolation.
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	John Steinbeck	680L	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck is a seminal novel that chronicles the Joad family's harrowing journey from Oklahoma to California during the Great Depression, as they seek a better life amidst widespread economic hardship. As they face exploitation, poverty, and injustice, the Joads encounter both the resilience and the harsh realities of their new world. The novel powerfully explores themes of social injustice, collective struggle, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.
<i>As I Lay Dying</i>	William Faulkner	870L	<i>As I Lay Dying</i> by William Faulkner is a modernist novel that follows the Bundren family's arduous journey to fulfill the dying wish of their matriarch, Addie Bundren, to be buried in her hometown. Told through multiple perspectives, the narrative delves into the family's personal struggles, conflicts, and the challenges they face as they transport Addie's corpse across the Mississippi landscape. The novel explores themes of familial duty, personal ambition, and the burdens of human suffering.
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	Stephen Crane	900L	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> by Stephen Crane is a novel that follows Henry Fleming, a young soldier who faces a crisis of courage and self-doubt during his first experience of battle in the American Civil War. As he grapples with fear and shame, Henry's journey from cowardice to valor is marked by intense internal conflict and moments of heroism. The novel explores themes of bravery, self-discovery, and the harsh realities of war.

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<i>Classic Slave Narratives</i>	Henry Louis Gates, Jr.	1020L	<i>Classic Slave Narratives</i> edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is a compilation of seminal accounts from former enslaved people that provides profound insights into the experiences and struggles of slavery in America. The collection includes narratives by prominent figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, and Olaudah Equiano, offering personal perspectives on the brutality of slavery and the quest for freedom. Through these powerful testimonies, the book explores themes of resilience, resistance, and the enduring fight for human dignity.
<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Frederick Douglass	1030L	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> is an autobiographical account by Frederick Douglass, detailing his experiences as an enslaved person and his eventual escape to freedom. Douglass vividly describes the brutality and dehumanization of slavery, his struggles for literacy, and his quest for liberation. The narrative serves as a powerful critique of slavery and an inspirational testament to Douglass's resilience and intellectual growth.
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	1070L	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a classic novel set in the Roaring Twenties that follows the enigmatic millionaire Jay Gatsby and his obsessive quest to rekindle a romance with the elusive Daisy Buchanan. Through the eyes of narrator Nick Carraway, the novel explores themes of decadence, idealism, and the American Dream's corruption. Gatsby's tragic pursuit of a glamorous but ultimately unattainable dream exposes the superficiality and moral decay of the era.
<i>Why We Can't Wait</i>	Martin Luther King, Jr.	1200L	<i>Why We Can't Wait</i> by Martin Luther King, Jr. is a compelling collection of essays that addresses the urgency of the Civil Rights Movement and the need for immediate action against racial injustice. Written during the pivotal year of 1963, the book reflects on the Birmingham Campaign and other key events, advocating for nonviolent resistance and social change. King eloquently argues that the struggle for equality cannot be postponed and must be addressed with both moral conviction and a sense of urgency.
<i>The Scarlet Letter*</i>	Nathaniel Hawthorne	1280L	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a classic novel set in 17th-century Puritan Massachusetts, focusing on Hester Prynne, who bears the scarlet letter "A" as a mark of shame for committing adultery. As Hester endures public scorn and struggles to provide for her child, her hidden lover, Reverend Dimmesdale, grapples with his own guilt and deteriorating health. The novel explores themes of sin, guilt, and redemption, examining the harshness of societal judgment and the complexities of moral integrity.
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	Zora Neale Hurston	1300L	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston is a novel that follows the life of Janie Crawford, an African American woman in the early 20th century, as she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. Through her three marriages and personal growth, Janie seeks to find her own voice and sense of identity amidst societal expectations and personal

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			struggles. The novel explores themes of love, independence, and the search for one's true self against the backdrop of a rich cultural heritage.
<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Arthur Miller	1320L	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller is a poignant play that centers on Willy Loman, an aging salesman struggling to achieve success and secure a better future for his family. As Willy grapples with the gap between his dreams and reality, his deteriorating mental state and strained relationships with his wife and sons reveal the profound disillusionment of the American Dream. The play examines themes of identity, ambition, and the harsh truths of personal and societal expectations.

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English 4 CP & English 4 Honors

Title	Author	Lexile	Book Summary
<i>Canterbury Tales (excerpts)</i>	Geoffrey Chaucer	NP	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> by Geoffrey Chaucer is a collection of stories told by a diverse group of pilgrims traveling to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket in Canterbury. Through a series of lively and often humorous tales, Chaucer presents a vivid portrait of medieval society, highlighting a range of characters from various social classes and professions. The work explores themes of morality, class, and human nature, offering a rich commentary on the social dynamics of the time.
<i>Hamlet</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare is a tragic play that follows Prince Hamlet of Denmark as he seeks to avenge his father's murder by his uncle Claudius, who has usurped the throne and married Hamlet's mother. As Hamlet wrestles with his own doubts and existential questions, his quest for revenge leads to a series of tragic events that ultimately result in his own downfall and the deaths of those around him. The play delves into themes of madness, betrayal, and the complexity of action and consequence.
<i>Othello</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare is a tragic play that tells the story of Othello, a Moorish general in the Venetian army, whose life unravels due to the manipulations of his envious subordinate, Iago. Fueled by jealousy and deceit, Iago convinces Othello that his wife, Desdemona, has been unfaithful, leading Othello to make a series of tragic decisions. The play explores themes of jealousy, trust, and the destructive power of deceit.
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte	720L	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Brontë is a Gothic novel that unfolds the tumultuous and passionate relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw on the isolated Yorkshire moors. The narrative, told through a series of overlapping perspectives, reveals Heathcliff's quest for vengeance and the destructive impact of his obsession on both the Earnshaw and Linton families. The novel explores themes of love, revenge, and the destructive effects of social class and personal vendettas.
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding	770L	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding is a dystopian novel that follows a group of boys stranded on a deserted island as they attempt to govern themselves and create a semblance of society. As their initial attempts at order and cooperation break down, their descent into savagery and violence reveals the darker aspects of human nature. The novel explores themes of civilization versus savagery, the loss of innocence, and the inherent conflict between order and chaos.
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Mary Shelley	810L	<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley is a Gothic novel that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a scientist who creates a sentient creature through unorthodox experiments. As the creature

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			faces rejection and isolation from society, it seeks revenge against its creator, leading to a tragic chain of events. The novel explores themes of ambition, responsibility, and the consequences of playing God, delving into the ethical dilemmas surrounding scientific advancement and human relationships.
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte	870L	<i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Brontë is a classic novel that follows the life of the titular orphan, Jane Eyre, as she grows from a mistreated child into a strong-willed and independent woman. Her journey takes her to Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with the enigmatic Mr. Rochester, only to discover a dark secret that tests her principles and resilience. The novel explores themes of love, morality, and social class, as Jane navigates her quest for self-respect and personal fulfillment.
<i>Grendel</i>	John Gardner	920L	<i>Grendel</i> by John Gardner is a modern retelling of the Beowulf epic from the perspective of the monster Grendel, offering a philosophical exploration of his alienation and existential angst. The novel delves into Grendel's thoughts and motivations, revealing his struggle with his own identity and the seemingly meaningless violence of his existence. Through this lens, the book examines themes of isolation, the nature of good and evil, and the quest for meaning in a chaotic world.
<i>Beowulf</i>	author unknown	1090L	<i>Beowulf</i> is an epic poem set in Scandinavia that follows the heroic deeds of Beowulf, a warrior who comes to the aid of King Hrothgar of the Danes by defeating the monstrous creature Grendel and later Grendel's vengeful mother. As Beowulf returns to his homeland and eventually becomes king, he faces a final, fatal battle against a fearsome dragon. The poem explores themes of heroism, loyalty, and the struggle between good and evil, celebrating the ideals of bravery and honor in a mythical setting.
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austin	1190L	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen is a classic novel that explores the intricate dynamics of love, class, and social expectations in early 19th-century England. The story centers on Elizabeth Bennet, whose sharp wit and strong principles clash with the pride of the wealthy Mr. Darcy, leading to a journey of mutual understanding and personal growth. Through its rich character development and keen social commentary, the novel critiques societal norms while celebrating the transformative power of love and self-awareness.

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AP/IB English

Title	Author	Lexile	Book Summary
<i>Persepolis</i>	Marjane Satrapi	GN380L	Marjane Satrapi's <i>Persepolis</i> is a graphic memoir that chronicles her childhood and early adulthood in Iran during and after the Islamic Revolution, blending personal experiences with political commentary to explore themes of identity, freedom, and the impact of war.
<i>A Doll's House</i>	Henrik Ibsen	NP	Henrik Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> follows Nora Helmer, a woman in a seemingly perfect marriage, who comes to realize the constraints of her domestic life and decides to leave her husband and children in order to discover her own identity and freedom.
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Tennessee Williams	NP	Tennessee Williams' <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> follows Blanche DuBois, a troubled woman who moves in with her sister Stella and her abusive husband Stanley, leading to a clash of personalities and desires that ultimately results in Blanche's mental breakdown.
<i>Antigone</i>	Sophocles	NP	<i>Antigone</i> is a tragedy written by Sophocles in the year 441 BCE and is a play about the aftermath of a civil war in which the two sons of Oedipus, Eteocles and Polyneices, kill each other, where the new king and their successor, Creon, tries to punish Polyneices for his disloyalty by not burying him properly.
<i>Canterbury Tales</i>	Chaucer	NP	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> tells the story of a group of pilgrims traveling from London to Canterbury to visit the holy shrine of St. Thomas Becket.
<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Arthur Miller	NP	Arthur Miller's play <i>Death of a Salesman</i> addresses loss of identity and a man's inability to accept change within himself and society.
<i>Hamlet</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare is a tragic play that follows Prince Hamlet of Denmark as he seeks to avenge his father's murder by his uncle Claudius, who has usurped the throne and married Hamlet's mother. As Hamlet wrestles with his own doubts and existential questions, his quest for revenge leads to a series of tragic events that ultimately result in his own downfall and the deaths of those around him. The play delves into themes of madness, betrayal, and the complexity of action and consequence.

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<i>King Lear</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>King Lear</i> tells the tragic story of the aging King Lear, who divides his kingdom between his two deceitful daughters, leading to betrayal, madness, and the eventual downfall of both Lear and his family.
<i>Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare is a dark tragedy that chronicles the rise and fall of Macbeth, a Scottish nobleman driven by ambition and prophecy. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan to seize the throne, but his guilt and paranoia lead to a tyrannical and bloody reign. The play delves into themes of power, ambition, and the destructive effects of unchecked ambition and moral corruption.
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> is a comedic tale of love, magic, and mistaken identities, where four lovers and a group of amateur actors find themselves entangled in the enchantments of fairies in a magical forest, leading to humorous and transformative events.
<i>Othello</i>	William Shakespeare	NP	<i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare is a tragic play that tells the story of Othello, a Moorish general in the Venetian army, whose life unravels due to the manipulations of his envious subordinate, Iago. Fueled by jealousy and deceit, Iago convinces Othello that his wife, Desdemona, has been unfaithful, leading Othello to make a series of tragic decisions. The play explores themes of jealousy, trust, and the destructive power of deceit.
<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i>	Tom Stoppard	NP	Tom Stoppard's <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> is an absurdist tragicomedy that follows two minor characters from <i>Hamlet</i> as they navigate existential confusion, fate, and the nature of reality while unknowingly moving toward their inevitable deaths.
<i>Selections of Poetry by Langston Hughes</i>	Langston Hughes	NP	<i>Selections of Poetry by Langston Hughes</i> showcases the work of a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, capturing the struggles, joys, and aspirations of Black Americans through lyrical poems that address themes of race, identity, and social justice.
<i>The Odyssey</i>	Homer	NP	<i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer is an epic poem recounting the adventurous journey of Odysseus as he strives to return home to Ithaca after the Trojan War. Along the way, he faces numerous challenges, including the wrath of gods, mythical creatures, and treacherous landscapes, while his faithful wife, Penelope, and son, Telemachus, fend

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			off suitors vying for his throne. The tale highlights themes of perseverance, loyalty, and the enduring power of wit and cunning.
<i>The Visit</i>	Friedrich Durrenmatt	NP	Friedrich Dürrenmatt's <i>The Visit</i> is a darkly comedic play in which a wealthy woman, Claire Zachanassian, returns to her impoverished hometown and offers a fortune to the community in exchange for the murder of the man who wronged her in her youth, exploring themes of justice, vengeance, and moral corruption.
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood	750L	Margaret Atwood's <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> is a dystopian novel following Offred, a Handmaid forced into reproductive servitude in the totalitarian Republic of Gilead, as she struggles to reclaim her identity and freedom in a society defined by oppression, surveillance, and religious extremism.
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding	770L	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding is a dystopian novel that follows a group of boys stranded on a deserted island as they attempt to govern themselves and create a semblance of society. As their initial attempts at order and cooperation break down, their descent into savagery and violence reveals the darker aspects of human nature. The novel explores themes of civilization versus savagery, the loss of innocence, and the inherent conflict between order and chaos.
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Mary Shelley	810L	<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley is a Gothic novel that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a scientist who creates a sentient creature through unorthodox experiments. As the creature faces rejection and isolation from society, it seeks revenge against its creator, leading to a tragic chain of events. The novel explores themes of ambition, responsibility, and the consequences of playing God, delving into the ethical dilemmas surrounding scientific advancement and human relationships.
<i>The Things They Carried</i>	Tim O'Brien	880L	Tim O'Brien's <i>The Things They Carried</i> is a collection of interconnected stories that blend fact and fiction to explore the emotional and physical burdens carried by American soldiers during the Vietnam War, revealing the complexities of memory, trauma, and storytelling.
<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>	Kurt Vonnegut	850L	Kurt Vonnegut's <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> follows Billy Pilgrim, an American soldier who becomes "unstuck in time," experiencing moments of his life, including the firebombing of Dresden, in a nonlinear fashion, as the novel blends dark humor,

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			anti-war themes, and science fiction to explore fate, free will, and the trauma of war.
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	Zora Neale Hurston	890L	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston is a novel that follows the life of Janie Crawford, an African American woman in the early 20th century, as she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. Through her three marriages and personal growth, Janie seeks to find her own voice and sense of identity amidst societal expectations and personal struggles. The novel explores themes of love, independence, and the search for one's true self against the backdrop of a rich cultural heritage.
<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Chinua Achebe	890L	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe is a compelling novel that follows the life of Okonkwo, a proud and ambitious Igbo warrior in pre-colonial Nigeria. Okonkwo's life begins to unravel as he struggles to uphold his traditional values against the changes brought by British colonialism and Christian missionaries. The novel explores themes of cultural clash, tradition, and the impact of colonialism on indigenous societies.
<i>The Awakening</i>	Kate Chopin	960L	Kate Chopin's <i>The Awakening</i> follows Edna Pontellier, a woman in 19th-century Creole society who struggles with societal expectations, self-discovery, and forbidden love, ultimately seeking independence in a world that denies her autonomy.
<i>Grendel</i>	John Gardner	920L	<i>Grendel</i> by John Gardner is a modern retelling of the Beowulf epic from the perspective of the monster Grendel, offering a philosophical exploration of his alienation and existential angst. The novel delves into Grendel's thoughts and motivations, revealing his struggle with his own identity and the seemingly meaningless violence of his existence. Through this lens, the book examines themes of isolation, the nature of good and evil, and the quest for meaning in a chaotic world.
<i>Invisible Man</i>	Ralph Ellison	950L	Ralph Ellison's <i>Invisible Man</i> follows an unnamed Black narrator's journey through a racially divided America as he grapples with identity, societal invisibility, and self-discovery in a world that refuses to see him as an individual.
<i>Madame Bovary</i>	Gustave Flaubert	1030L	Gustave Flaubert's <i>Madame Bovary</i> follows Emma Bovary, a romantic and disillusioned woman who seeks escape from her mundane provincial life

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			through passionate affairs and reckless spending, only to face tragic consequences.
<i>1984</i>	George Orwell	1090L	George Orwell's <i>1984</i> depicts a dystopian society under totalitarian rule, where Winston Smith struggles against constant surveillance, oppressive control, and the manipulation of truth, only to face inevitable defeat by the Party.
<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>	Thomas Hardy	1090L	Thomas Hardy's <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> follows Tess, a young woman from a poor family who faces betrayal, tragedy, and social judgment as she navigates love, class, and fate in 19th-century rural England.
<i>Candide</i>	Voltaire	1110L	Voltaire's <i>Candide</i> follows the young, optimistic Candide as he embarks on a series of misadventures around the world, challenging the philosophy of "the best of all possible worlds" while satirizing religion, politics, and the human condition.
<i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	James Joyce	1120L	James Joyce's <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> traces the intellectual and emotional development of Stephen Dedalus, a young man in early 20th-century Ireland, as he rejects societal and religious constraints in search of artistic freedom and personal identity.
<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell	1170L	<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell is an allegorical novella in which farm animals overthrow their human owner in a bid for freedom and equality, only to see their society become equally oppressive under the leadership of the pigs. Led by Napoleon, the pigs gradually seize power, manipulating language and rewriting history to maintain control over the other animals. The story serves as a critique of totalitarian regimes, illustrating the corruption of revolutionary ideals and the cyclical nature of power and oppression.
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen	1190L	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen is a classic novel that explores the intricate dynamics of love, class, and social expectations in early 19th-century England. The story centers on Elizabeth Bennet, whose sharp wit and strong principles clash with the pride of the wealthy Mr. Darcy, leading to a journey of mutual understanding and personal growth. Through its rich character development and keen social commentary, the novel critiques societal norms while celebrating the transformative power of love and self-awareness.

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<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Jonathan Swift	1300L	Jonathan Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> follows Lemuel Gulliver, a shipwrecked traveler who encounters bizarre and satirical societies, using his adventures to critique human nature, politics, and society through dark humor and allegory.
<i>Hero with a Thousand Faces</i>	Joseph Campbell	NR	Joseph Campbell's <i>The Hero with a Thousand Faces</i> explores the universal pattern of the hero's journey, identifying common stages and archetypes in myths and stories across different cultures to reveal a shared narrative structure of transformation and self-discovery.
<i>This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen</i>	Tadeusz Borowski	NR	Tadeusz Borowski's <i>This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen</i> is a collection of short stories that depict the brutal realities of life in Nazi concentration camps, exploring the dehumanizing effects of war, survival, and moral compromise.