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GREAT
American
READ

100 BOOKS. 1 WINNER.

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WHAT IS AMERICA’S BEST-LOVED NOVEL?
“The Great American Read,” hosted by Meredith Vieira, is an eight-part television and online series designed to spark a national conversation about reading and the books that have inspired, moved and shaped us. The series will engage audiences with a list of 100 diverse books. Audiences are encouraged to read the books, vote from the list of 100, and share their personal connections to the titles.

“The Great American Read” premieres Tuesday, May 22, at 7 p.m. on AETN with a launch special, kicking off a summer of reading and voting. Then in the fall, seven new episodes of the series will air as the quest to find America’s most beloved book moves into high gear. Episodes will feature appearances by celebrities, athletes, experts, authors and everyday Americans advocating for their favorite books.

#GreatReadPBS
The Top 100 Books List:

YouGov.com conducted a pair of demographically and statistically representative surveys asking respondents to name their most-loved book. The individuals surveyed for this project were selected at random using quotas (age, gender, race, education, income, etc.) to ensure the sample was representative of the US population. The survey consisted of one open-ended question: “What is your best-loved novel?”

Selection criteria included:
1. Each author was limited to having one title included on the list.
2. Books published in series or featuring ongoing characters count as a single book (i.e. the Harry Potter series or “The Lord of the Rings”).
3. Books could be from anywhere as long as they have been published in the USA in English.
4. Only fiction books could be included in the poll.

An Advisory Panel of 13 literary professionals was invited to use their collective expertise to minimally curate the final list of 100 to break ties and maximize diversity in the list.

The list includes 100 fictional titles that span different themes, like love, heroes, villains, other worlds and what it means to be an American.

Voting will start when the launch episode premieres on Tuesday, May 22 and will remain open through the fall broadcasts.

Follow “The Great American Read” on Facebook for the latest details about the show. Also, be sure to share with your friends and join the conversation using #GreatReadPBS.

Voting starts May 22, and continues throughout the fall.

Vote for your best-loved novel at pbs.org/greatamericanread.
Title: 1984  
Author: George Orwell - Date: 1949  
Genre: Literary/Dystopian/Sci-Fi  
Synopsis: Set in a parallel UK, infested with cameras and microphones to report rebellion against the Party in power. The novel is the story of Winston Smith, an editor responsible for altering records to fit the Party’s version of history, while secretly loathing them. In his longing for truth and liberty, Smith begins a secret love affair with a fellow worker, Julia, but soon discovers the true price of freedom is betrayal.

Title: A Confederacy of Dunces  
Author: John Kennedy Toole - Date: 1980  
Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: The picaresque saga of Ignatius J. Reilly, an educated but slothful 30-year-old in 1960s New Orleans. A monument to sloth, rant and contempt, a behemoth of fat, flatulence and furious suspicion of anything modern the ordinary fold of New Orleans seem to think he is unhinged.

Title: A Prayer for Owen Meany  
Author: John Irving - Date: 1989  
Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: John Wheelwright and his best friend Owen Meany grow up together in a small New Hampshire town during the 1950s and 1960s. Owen is a remarkable boy in many ways; he believes himself to be God’s instrument and sets out to fulfill the gate he has prophesied for himself.

Title: A Separate Peace  
Author: John Knowles - Date: 1959  
Genre: Classic/Young Adult  
Synopsis: Gene was a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happened between them at school one summer during the early years of World War II is the subject of this novel.
Title: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Author: Betty Smith - Date: 1943
Genre: Classic
Synopsis: Focuses on an impoverished but aspirational, second-generation Irish American, adolescent girl and her family in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York City, during the first two decades of the 20th century.

Title: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Author: Mark Twain
Date: 1876 - Genre: Classic/Adventure
Synopsis: Tom Sawyer is a clever but mischievous child, but his adventures along the Mississippi river with Huckleberry Finn see him become more mature, sacrificing the freedoms of childhood while embracing a thirst for adventure.

Title: The Alchemist
Author: Paulo Coelho - Date: 1988
Genre: Inspirational
Synopsis: A story that follows a young Andalusian shepherd in his journey to Egypt after having a recurring dream of finding treasure there. An international bestseller.

Title: Alex Cross Mysteries (series)
Author: James Patterson - Date: 1993
Genre: Mystery/Crime/Thriller
Synopsis: Crime and mystery series about Alex Cross, an African-American former FBI agent and psychologist who works in Washington D.C.
Title: Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland  
Author: Lewis Carroll - Date: 1865  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: A girl named Alice falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures.

Title: Americanah  
Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - Date: 2013 - Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: As teenagers in Lagos, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Their Nigeria is under military dictatorship, and people are fleeing the country if they can. The self-assured Ifemelu departs for America. There she suffers defeats and triumphs, finds and loses relationships, all the while feeling the weight of something she never thought of back home: race.

Title: And Then There Were None  
Author: Agatha Christie - Date: 1939  
Genre: Mystery/Crime Thriller  
Synopsis: A group of people are lured into coming to an island under different pretexts. All have been complicit in the deaths of other human beings but escaped justice.

Title: Anne of Green Gables  
Author: Lucy Maud Montgomery - Date: 1908 - Genre: Young Adult  
Synopsis: Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert decide to adopt a boy to assist on their farm at Green Gables. However, through a misunderstanding, they are instead sent Anne: a red-headed, pugnacious and talkative girl, who causes chaos at Green Gables and the village.
Title: Another Country
Author: James Baldwin - Date: 1962
Genre: Classic
Synopsis: In Greenwich Village in the late 1950s, this story of desire, hatred and violence focuses on Rufus Scott, a scavenging Harlem jazz musician adrift in New York. Self-destructive, bad and brilliant, he draws readers into a Bohemian underworld pulsing with heat, music and sex, where desperate and dangerous characters betray, love and test each other to the limit.

Title: Atlas Shrugged
Author: Ayn Rand - Date: 1957 - Genre: Classic
Sci-Fi/Dystopian
Synopsis: The saga of the enigmatic John Galt and his plan to 'stop the motor of the world', believing people should have the right to use their mind solely for themselves, while set in a collectivist social and economic society.

Title: Beloved
Author: Toni Morrison - Date: 1987
Genre: Classic
Synopsis: It is the mid-1800s, and as slavery looks to be coming to an end, Sethe is haunted by the violent trauma it wrought on her former enslaved life at Sweet Home, Kentucky. Her dead baby daughter, whose tombstone bears the single word, Beloved, returns as a specter to punish her mother, but also to elicit her love.

Title: Bless Me Ultima
Author: Rudolfo Anaya - Date: 1972
Genre: Classic
Synopsis: Antonio Marez is 6 years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will probe the family ties that bind and rend him, and he will discover himself in the magical secrets of the pagan past – a mythic legacy as palpable as the Catholicism of Latin America.
Title: The Book Thief  
Author: Markus Zusak - Date: 2005  
Genre: Young Adult/Historical  
Synopsis: The story of Liesel Meminger, a 9-year-old German girl who was given up by her mother to live with Hans and Rosa Hubermann in the small town of Molching in 1939, shortly before World War II.

Title: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao  
Author: Junot Diaz - Date: 2007 - Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel chronicles both the life of Oscar De Leon, an overweight Dominican boy growing up in Paterson, New Jersey, who is obsessed with science fiction and fantasy novels and falling in love, as well as the curse that has plagued his family for generations.

Title: The Call Of The Wild  
Author: Jack London - Date: 1903  
Genre: Young Adult/Adventure  
Synopsis: Set in Canada during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, the central character of the novel is a dog named Buck. The story opens at a ranch in Santa Clara Valley, California, when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska.

Title: Catch-22  
Author: Joseph Heller - Date: 1961  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Satirical novel set during World War II. It mainly follows the life of Captain John Yossarian and his attempts to escape death in the middle of war.
Title: The Catcher In the Rye  
Author: J.D. Salinger - Date: 1951  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: The novel’s protagonist explores identity, belonging and loss of innocence as he searches unsuccessfully for a true connection. Through his disappointment, Holden realizes important lessons.

Title: Charlotte’s Web  
Author: E.B. White - Date: 1952  
Genre: Classic/Middle Grade  
Synopsis: A story of a little girl named Fern, who loved a pig named Wilbur, and of Wilbur’s dear friend, Charlotte: a spider. With help from Templeton the rat, and a plan of her own, Charlotte saves the life of Wilbur.

Title: The Chronicles of Narnia (series)  
Author: C.S. Lewis - Date: 1950  
Genre: Classic/Young Adult/Fantasy  
Synopsis: A series of seven fantasy novels set in the fictional realm of Narnia and the adventures of the children who play central roles in the unfolding history of that world.

Title: The Clan of the Cave Bear  
Author: Jean M. Auel - Date: 1980  
Genre: Commercial/Historical  
Synopsis: An epic historical novel by Jean M. Auel about prehistoric times. It is the first book in the Earth’s Children book series which speculates on the possibilities of interactions between Neanderthal and modern Cro-Magnon humans.

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**Title:** The Coldest Winter Ever  
**Author:** Sister Souljah - Date: 1999  
**Genre:** Literary  
**Synopsis:** Set in the projects of Brooklyn, New York, the story of Winter Santiago, the rebellious, pampered teenage daughter of a notorious drug dealer.

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**Title:** The Color Purple  
**Author:** Alice Walker - Date: 1982  
**Genre:** Classic  
**Synopsis:** Taking place mostly in rural Georgia, the story focuses on the life of African-American women in the southern United States in the 1930s, addressing numerous issues including their exceedingly low position in American social culture.

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**Title:** The Count of Monte Cristo  
**Author:** Alexandre Dumas - Date: 1844  
**Genre:** Classic  
**Synopsis:** The victim of a miscarriage of justice, Edmund Dantes is fired by a desire for retribution and empowered by a stroke of providence. In his campaign of vengeance, he becomes an anonymous agent of fate.

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**Title:** Crime and Punishment  
**Author:** Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
**Date:** 1866 - **Genre:** Classic  
**Synopsis:** Focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-student in Saint Petersburg who formulates and executes a plan to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker for her cash.
Title: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime
Author: Mark Haddon - Date: 2003
Genre: Literary/Young Adult
Synopsis: Christopher is 15 and has Asperger’s Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about math and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbor’s dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

Title: The Da Vinci Code
Author: Dan Brown - Date: 2003
Genre: Mystery/Crime/Thriller
Synopsis: Harvard professor and symbologist Robert Langdon and the gifted French cryptologist Sophie Neveu investigate a murder in Paris’ Louvre Museum, in turn unearthing many long-held secrets about Christianity.

Title: Don Quixote
Author: Miguel de Cervantes
Date: 1605 - Genre: Classic
Synopsis: Don Quixote is a deranged gentleman who turns knight-errant. On his “heroic” journey, he meets characters of every class and condition.

Title: Doña Barbara
Author: Romulo-Gallegos - Date: 1929
Genre: Classic
Synopsis: Following the epic struggle between two cousins for an estate in Venezuela, “Doña Barbara” is an examination of the conflict between town and country, violence and intellect, male and female. Doña Barbara is a beautiful and mysterious woman – rumored to be a witch – with a ferocious power over men.
Title: Dune
Author: Frank Herbert - Date: 1965
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: Set in the far intergalactic future, Paul relocates to the only planet that produces a spice that gives extended life to those who ingest it. The story follows the fate of him and his family as battle commences over the rule of the planet.

Title: Fifty Shades of Grey (series)
Author: E.L. James - Date: 2011
Genre: Commercial/Romance
Synopsis: A novel following the romantic and sexual relationship of a virgin college graduate and a billionaire businessman, concerning the balance of physical and emotional components of a relationship.

Title: Flowers in the Attic
Author: V.C. Andrews - Date: 1979
Genre: Horror
Synopsis: First-person-narrated gothic horror story about family secrets. After the sudden death of their father, four children face cruel treatment from their ruthless grandmother.

Title: Foundation (series)
Author: Isaac Asimov - Date: 1951
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: Classic science fiction series based around the premise that a mathematician can predict the future.

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Title: Frankenstein
Author: Mary Shelley - Date: 1818
Genre: Classic/Horror
Synopsis: Young scientist Victor Frankenstein creates a grotesque but sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. An early example of science fiction, infused with elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement.

Title: A Games of Thrones (series)
Author: George R.R Martin - Date: 1996
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: Several powerful families fight for the throne to rule the seven kingdoms, while an ancient dark enemy rises to threaten them all. An epic fantasy story of war, betrayal, family loyalty and love.

Title: Ghost
Author: Jason Reynolds - Date: 2016
Genre: Young Adult
Synopsis: A young boy nicknamed Ghost strives to become the fastest sprinter on the middle school track team, but his traumatic past slows him down.

Book title: Gilead
Author: Marilynne Robinson
Date: 2004 - Genre: Literary
Synopsis: The Pulitzer Prize winning account of the memories and legacy of John Armes as he remembers his experiences of his father and grandfather to share with his son. All three men share a vocational lifestyle and profession as Congregationalist ministers in Gilead, Iowa.
Title: The Giver  
Author: Lois Lowery - Date: 1993  
Genre: Young Adult/Dystopian  
Synopsis: A novel following 12-year-old Jonas in a society which at first appears to be utopian but it is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses.

Title: The Godfather  
Author: Mario Puzo - Date: 1969  
Genre: Mystery/Crime/Thriller  
Synopsis: Centering on the Corleone mafia family, the novel follows the war they fight with the other four families in 1940s New York and their struggle for power.

Title: Gone Girl  
Author: Gillian Flynn - Date: 2012  
Genre: Mystery/Crime/Thriller  
Synopsis: Best selling thriller about whether the main character was involved in the disappearance of his wife.

Title: Gone With the Wind  
Author: Margaret Mitchell  
Date: 1936 - Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Epic novel following the struggles of Scarlett O’Hara in Georgia; a spoiled daughter of a rich plantation owner who tries to claw her way out of poverty after the South’s defeat in the Civil War.

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Title: The Grapes of Wrath  
Author: John Steinbeck - Date: 1939  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Tom Joad and his family are forced from their farm in the Depression-era Oklahoma Dust Bowl and set out for California along with thousands of others in search of jobs, land and hope for a brighter future.

Title: Great Expectations  
Author: Charles Dickens - Date: 1861  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: This novel depicts the growth and development of a young orphan boy through love, rejection, social class and friendship.

Title: The Great Gatsby  
Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald - Date: 1925  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: The story concerns the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his quixotic passion and obsession for Daisy Buchanan. The novel explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval and excess, creating a portrait of the Jazz Age or the Roaring Twenties.

Title: Gulliver’s Travels  
Author: Jonathan Swift - Date: 1726  
Genre: Classic/Adventure/Fantasy  
Synopsis: Satire on human nature and the “travelers’ tales” literary subgenre. The titular Gulliver travels to fantastical locations.
Title: The Handmaid’s Tale
Author: Margaret Atwood - Date: 1985
Genre: Literary/Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: Set in a near-future New England, in a totalitarian theocracy that has overthrown the United States government. Here Offred has only one function: to breed. If she deviates, she will be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But, even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire.

Title: Harry Potter (series)
Author: J.K. Rowling - Date: 1997
Genre: Young Adult/Sci-fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: A series of seven books. A young wizard at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry battles to defeat evil Lord Voldemort alongside his friends in a world of wizardry and magical creatures.

Title: Hatchet
Author: Gary Paulsen - Date: 1987
Genre: Young Adult/Adventure
Synopsis: Thirteen-year-old Brian survives the crash of a bush plane when the pilot suddenly has a heart attack and dies, and learns to survive on his own in the wilderness with only his hatchet – a gift his mother made him shortly before his plane departed.

Title: Heart of Darkness
Author: Joseph Conrad - Date: 1902
Genre: Classic/Adventure
Synopsis: On board a boat anchored on the River Thames, Marlow tells his story of his journey up the Congo River and his obsession with the ivory trader Kurtz. A powerful indictment of the evils of imperialism. It reflects the savage repressions carried out in the Congo by the Belgians in one of the largest acts of genocide committed up to that time.
Title: The Help  
Author: Kathryn Stockett - Date: 2009  
Genre: Commercial  
Synopsis: The story of black maids working in white Southern homes in the early 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi, and of Miss Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan, a 22 year-old graduate from Ole Miss, who returns to her family’s cotton plantation, Longleaf, to find that her beloved maid and nanny, Constantine, has left and no one will tell her why.

Title: The Hunger Games (series)  
Author: Suzanne Collins - Date: 2008  
Genre: Young Adult/Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Dystopian  
Synopsis: A dystopian novel set in Panem, a country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and 12 districts in varying states of poverty where children are selected to participate in an annual televised death match.

Title: The Hitchhiker’s Guide to The Galaxy - Author: Douglas Adams - Date: 1979 - Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy  
Synopsis: Arthur Dent is saved from Earth’s total annihilation by his alien friend and makes his way across the stars while seeking the meaning of life and meeting a myriad of interesting alien characters.

Title: The Hunt for Red October  
Author: Tom Clancy - Date: 1984  
Genre: Mystery/Crime/Thriller  
Synopsis: This thriller follows a CIA analyst who leads a group of U.S. Navy officers to take possession of a cutting-edge Soviet nuclear submarine.
Title: The Intuitionist  
Author: Colson Whitehead  
Date: 1999 - Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: The debut novel by the Pulitzer Prize winning author of “The Underground Railroad.” In a city full of skyscrapers, vertical transportation is required in the form of elevators. Lila Mae Watson is the first black female elevator inspector in the history of the department. When an elevator in a new city building goes into total freefall on Lila Mae’s watch, chaos ensues.

Title: Invisible Man  
Author: Ralph Ellison  
Date: 1953  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Ralph Ellison’s blistering and impassioned novel tells the story of a man invisible “simply because people refuse to see me.” The powerfully depicted adventures of Ellison’s invisible man go far beyond the story of one individual to give voice to the experience of an entire generation of black Americans.

Title: Jane Eyre  
Author: Charlotte Bronte  
Date: 1847  
Genre: Classic/Romance  
Synopsis: This novel follows the emotions and experiences of a young girl as she grows into adulthood and begins to fall in love. The novel contains social criticism and explores classism, sexuality, religion and proto-feminism.

Title: The Joy Luck Club  
Author: Amy Tan  
Date: 1989  
Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters’ futures, they call the themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters think their mothers’ advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives.
Title: Jurassic Park  
Author: Michael Crichton  
Date: 1990  
Genre: Commercial/Sci-Fi/Fantasy  
Synopsis: Science fiction novel about a theme park full of genetically engineered dinosaurs – and what happens when it goes wrong. A modern day Frankenstein.

Title: Left Behind (series)  
Author: Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins  
Date: 1995  
Genre: Inspirational/Mystery/Thriller  
Synopsis: A series of 16 best-selling religious fiction novels, dealing with Christian End Times and the people who are left behind after the rapture.

Title: The Little Prince  
Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupery  
Date: 1943  
Genre: Classic/Children’s  
Synopsis: Children’s classic. On one level it is the story of an airman’s discovery, in the desert, of a small boy from another planet – the Little Prince of the title – and his stories of intergalactic travel, while on the other hand it is a thought-provoking allegory of the human condition.

Title: Little Women  
Author: Louisa May Alcott  
Date: 1868  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Following the lives of four March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, and portraying the strains and delights of family life in America during the Civil War.

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Title: Lonesome Dove
Author: Larry McMurtry - Date: 1985
Genre: Western/Adventure
Synopsis: Modern western that focuses on the relationship of several retired Texas Rangers and their adventures driving a cattle herd from Texas to Montana.

Title: Looking for Alaska
Author: John Green - Date: 2005
Genre: Young Adult
Synopsis: The story is told through teenager Miles Halter as he enrolls at a boarding school and his attempts to gain a deeper perspective on life.

Title: The Lord of the Rings (series)
Author: J.R.R. Tolkien - Date: 1954
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: An epic fantasy story of a quest to destroy a ring in order to defeat its evil creator Sauron, who aims to enslave all of middle earth. A classic battle between good and evil, as hobbit Frodo Baggins must make a long time journey with many companions to destroy the ring, fighting villains in many forms and the corruption caused by the ring to he who wears it.

Title: The Lovely Bones
Author: Alice Sebold - Date: 2002
Genre: Literary
Synopsis: The story of a teenage girl who, after being raped and murdered, narrates from heaven as her family and friends struggle to move on with their lives while she comes to term with her death.
Title: The Martian  
Author: Andy Weir - Date: 2014  
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy  
Synopsis: During a manned mission to Mars, astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm and is left behind by his crew. But, Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet, where he must survive until he can be rescued.

Title: Memoirs of a Geisha  
Author: Arthur Golden - Date: 1997 - Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: Told in first person perspective, this is the fictional story of a geisha working in Kyoto, Japan, before and after World War II.

Title: Mind Invaders  
Author: Dave Hunt - Date: 1989  
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Inspirational  
Synopsis: Originally titled “The Archon Conspiracy,” this Christian sci-fi novel is about agents and Soviet leaders scrambling for the ultimate weapon – psychic power.

Title: Moby Dick  
Author: Herman Melville - Date: 1851 - Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Sailor Ishmael narrates the story of the obsessive quest of Ahab, captain of a whaling ship, to find and kill Moby Dick, the white whale who took his leg from the knee down.
Title: The Notebook
Author: Nicholas Sparks - Date: 1996
Genre: Commercial/Romance
Synopsis: A rural Southerner returned from WWII can’t forget the girl he met 14 years ago, when she unexpectedly returns to his town to see him again. She begins to fall for him, but is engaged to another man, leaving her with a difficult decision to make.

Title: One Hundred Years of Solitude
Author: Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Date: 1967 - Genre: Classic
Synopsis: The story of a family in an isolated town as it begins to lose its innocence. Over a hundred year time frame the village experiences war, death, marriages, love affairs and massacre, and comes almost full circle to its origins.

Title: Outlander (series)
Author: Diana Gabaldon - Date: 1991
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: A second world war era nurse travels through time to 18th century Scotland and finds adventure and romance. She must make the decision whether she stays or returns to her own time.

Title: The Outsiders
Author: S.E. Hinton - Date: 1967
Genre: Young Adult
Synopsis: This novel follows a poor, 14-year-old Oklahoman called Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider.
Title: The Picture of Dorian Gray  
Author: Oscar Wilde - Date: 1890  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Playboy Dorian Gray is determined to keep his youthful appearance. An admirer paints a full-length portrait of him. And, while Gray embarks on a journey of sin, crime and depravity, his looks remain youthful and attractive, while his portrait changes into a grotesque display of evil that he must keep hidden.

Title: The Pilgrim’s Progress  
Author: John Bunyan - Date: 1678  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Christian allegory presented as a dream sequence. The protagonist journeys from his hometown, the “City of Destruction” (“this world”), to the “Celestial City.”

Title: Pillars of The Earth  
Author: Ken Follett - Date: 1989  
Genre: Commercial/Historical  
Synopsis: This novel follows the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge, England. It is set in the middle of the 12th century, primarily during the Anarchy, between the time of the sinking of the White Ship and the murder of Thomas Becket.

Title: Pride and Prejudice  
Author: Jane Austen - Date: 1813  
Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Centering on the Bennett family, Elizabeth’s emotional development allows her to see the error in hasty judgement and appreciate the essential over superficial. It focuses on the importance of marrying for love, not wealth or social status. Set in 19th century England.
Title: Ready Player One  
Author: Ernest Cline - Date: 2011  
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Dystopian  
Synopsis: Science fiction and dystopian novel set in a world gripped by an energy crisis. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes this depressing reality by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia.

Title: Rebecca  
Author: Daphne du Maurier - Date: 1938  
Genre: Mystery/Thriller/Romance  
Synopsis: A naïve young woman in her early 20s becomes acquainted with a wealthy Englishman, Maximilian de Winter, a 42-year-old widower. With a husband she barely knows, the young bride arrives at his immense estate, only to be inexorably drawn into the life of the first Mrs. De Winter, the beautiful Rebecca, dead but never forgotten.

Title: The Shack  
Author: William P. Young - Date: 2007  
Genre: Inspirational/Mystery/Thriller  
Synopsis: Religious thriller centering on father Mack, and the unique manifestation of grief after his daughter is murdered. As he converses with the personifications of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit Mack comes to terms with the tragedy.

Title: Siddhartha  
Author: Hermann Hesse - Date: 1922  
Genre: Classic  
Title: The Sirens Of Titan
Author: Kurt Vonnegut - Date: 1959
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: A comic novel revolving around a Martian invasion of Earth – involves issues of free will, omniscience and the overall purpose of human history.

Title: The Stand
Author: Stephen King - Date: 1978
Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror
Synopsis: After the accidental release of a strain of influenza, an apocalyptic pandemic kills off the majority of the world’s human population, causing total breakdown of society. The novel follows a number of main characters as they attempt to restart civilization.

Title: The Sun Also Rises
Author: Ernest Hemingway
Date: 1926 - Genre: Classic
Synopsis: A group of American and British expatriates travel from Paris to the Festival of San Fermin in Pamplona to watch the running of the bulls and the bullfights.

Title: Swan Song
Author: Robert R. McCammon
Date: 1987 - Genre: Horror/Sci-Fi/Fantasy
Synopsis: Post-apocalyptic fiction describing the aftermath of a nuclear war that provokes an evolution in humankind.
Title: Tales of the City (series)  
Author: Armistead Maupin  
Date: 1978 - Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: Seeking a change in her life, Mary Ann Singleton moves to San Francisco in 1976, soon finding herself living at 28 Barbary Lane. She tumbles headlong into a brave new world of laundromat Lotharios, pot-growing landladies, cutthroat debutantes and Jockey Shorts dance contests. A classic of gay literature.

Title: Their Eyes Were Watching God  
Author: Zora Neale Hurston  
Date: 1937 - Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Seminal work in African-American literature and women’s literature. Follows main character Janie Crawford’s ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny.

Title: Things Fall Apart  
Author: Chinua Achebe  
Date: 1958 - Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: This novel follows the life and the tragic fall of Okonkwo, a respected and influential leader within the Igbo community of Umoja in eastern Nigeria, as he faces the coming of European colonialism.

Title: This Present Darkness  
Author: Frank E. Peretti - Date: 1986  
Genre: Inspirational/Mystery/Thriller  
Synopsis: Christian novel that shows angels and demons struggling for control of a small town. Critical of Eastern and New Age spiritual practices, portraying meditation as a means of demonic possession.
Title: To Kill a Mockingbird  
Author: Harper Lee  
Date: 1960 - Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: Scout Finch lives with her brother and lawyer father in Alabama during the Great Depression. Father, Atticus, works on a trial with a controversial outcome, putting the children in danger at the climatic ending.

Title: Twilight Saga (series)  
Author: Stephanie Meyer  
Date: 2005 - Genre: Young Adult/Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Romance  
Synopsis: Vampire themed fantasy romance novel following a mortal girl and her falling in love with a vampire. Problems and danger arise as she becomes involved in a world of vampires.

Title: War and Peace  
Author: Leo Tolstoy  
Date: 1869 - Genre: Classic  
Synopsis: This epic novel follows three characters during Napoleon’s invasion of Russia in 1812: Pierre, the illegitimate son of a count who is fighting for his inheritance and yearning for spiritual fulfillment; Prince Andrei, who leaves his family behind to fight in the war against Napoleon; and Natasha, the beautiful young daughter of a nobleman who intrigues both men.

Title: Watchers  
Author: Dean Koontz - Date: 1987  
Genre: Mystery/Suspense  
Synopsis: Travis Cornell, a former Delta Force operative, feels that his life has become pointless, and is exploring a canyon near his home when he encounters two genetically engineered creatures that have escaped from a top-secret government lab.
Title: The Wheel of Time (series)  
Author: Robert Jordan (pen name for James Oliver Rigney, Jr.)  
Date: 1990 - Genre: Fantasy  
Synopsis: The saga tells the story of a man destined to face the Evil One and save the world – or destroy it in the process.

Title: Where the Red Fern Grows  
Author: Wilson Rawls  
Date: 1961 - Genre: Young Adult  
Synopsis: Billy Colman looks back and narrates his childhood memories. Living with his Papa and Mama and three sisters in the Ozark Mountains in Oklahoma, all 10-year-old Billy wants is two hounds with whom he can hunt raccoons.

Title: White Teeth  
Author: Zadie Smith  
Date: 2000 - Genre: Literary  
Synopsis: This novel focuses on the later lives of two wartime friends – the Bangladeshi Samad Iqbal and the Englishman Archie Joes – and their families in London. The novel is centered on Britain’s relationships with people from formerly colonized countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

Title: Wuthering Heights  
Author: Emily Bronte - Date: 1847  
Genre: Classic/Romance  
Synopsis: The story of mysterious Heathcliff through his life from childhood to death. A story of revenge, love and class as he rises in his adopted family to then be reduced to servant, running away when his love marries another. He sets about gaining revenge on those he believes ruined his life, as he returns rich and educated.
The Great American Read

Top 100 Books List:

Read It:  
- Hatchet
- Heart of Darkness
- The Help
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
- The Hunger Games
- The Hunt for Red October
- The Intuitionist
- Invisible Man
- Jane Eyre
- The Joy Luck Club
- Jurassic Park
- Left Behind
- The Little Prince
- Little Women
- Lonesome Dove
- Looking for Alaska
- The Lord of the Rings**
- The Lovely Bones
- The Martian
- Memoirs of a Geisha
- Mind Invaders
- Moby Dick
- The Notebook
- One Hundred Years of Solitude
- Outlander
- The Outsiders
- The Picture of Dorian Gray
- The Pilgrim's Progress
- The Pillars of the Earth
- Pride and Prejudice
- Ready Player One
- Rebecca
- The Shack
- Siddhartha
- The Sirens of Titan
- The Stand
- The Sun Also Rises
- Swan Song
- Tales of the City
- Their Eyes Were Watching God
- Things Fall Apart
- This Present Darkness
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Twilight
- War and Peace
- Watchers
- The Wheel of Time**
- Where the Red Fern Grows
- White Teeth
- Wuthering Heights

Want To:  
- 1984
- A Confederacy of Dunces
- A Game of Thrones
- A Prayer for Owen Meany
- A Separate Peace
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
- The Alchemist
- Alex Cross Mysteries**
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
- Americanah
- And Then There Were None
- Anne of Green Gables
- Another Country
- Atlas Shrugged
- Beloved
- Bless Me, Ultima
- The Book Thief
- The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
- The Call of the Wild
- Catch-22
- The Catcher in the Rye
- Charlotte's Web
- The Chronicles of Narnia
- The Clan of the Cave Bear
- The Coldest Winter Ever
- The Color Purple
- The Count of Monte Cristo
- Crime and Punishment
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime
- The Da Vinci Code
- Don Quixote
- Doña Barbara
- Dune
- Fifty Shades of Grey
- Flowers in the Attic
- Foundation
- Frankenstein
- Ghost
- Gilead
- The Giver
- The Godfather
- Gone Girl
- Gone with the Wind
- The Grapes of Wrath
- Great Expectations
- The Great Gatsby
- Gulliver's Travels
- The Handmaid's Tale
- Harry Potter**
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