



While there are four levels to the MUST READS list, corresponding to the four years of high school education, students may read at their own pace, completing multiple levels per year, if they so choose, or one level during the course of their high school career, if that pace suits them better.

As students accomplish a level, they will receive a prize: an original historical artifact. The first artifact will be an object from the ancient world, the second from the medieval age, the third from the Renaissance era, and the fourth from modern times. This is a chance not only to read the great works of western civilization, but also to collect real historical artifacts that provide a tangible connection with the past.

After reading each book, students will write a short response sheet in the “What I learned from reading _____” style. Booklets are available in the school store for them to collect their responses in, with room for illustrations. Each booklet will then be a record of a young mind’s journey through the classics.

LEVEL 01

Silas Marner
by George Eliot

Hannah Coulter
by Wendell Berry

A Midsummer Night's Dream
by William Shakespeare

A Picture of Dorian Gray
by Oscar Wilde

Cannery Row
by John Steinbeck

LEVEL 02

Pride and Prejudice
by Jane Austen

Macbeth
by William Shakespeare

Slaughterhouse Five
by Kurt Vonnegut

Franny and Zooey
by J.D. Salinger

A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek
by Annie Dillard

LEVEL 03

Twelfth Night
by William Shakespeare

Crime and Punishment
by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Dubliners
by James Joyce

Night
by Elie Wiesel

Silent Spring
by Rachel Carson

LEVEL 04

Anna Karenina
by Leo Tolstoy

*Mystery and Manners:
Occasional Prose*
by Flannery O'Connor

Invisible Man
by Ralph Ellison

Letters to a Young Poet
by Rainer Maria Rilke

A River Runs Through It
by Norman Maclean

Housekeeping
by Marilynne Robins