

# 11th +12th Grade Summer Reading

All Upper School Students will read a total of three books: two books must come from their grade level list and one book may be any title of the student's choice. Required summer reading titles for AP and Honors classes will also count toward the three-book total. Students should not select any texts that they have previously read, and students should submit the reading log to their advisors when they return to school in August.

The purpose of summer reading at Baylor is to encourage students to develop a life-long habit of reading, echo the students' classroom learning experiences, and provide opportunities for students to read classics and other texts that expand their perspectives and stimulate interest in the world around them.

## CLASSICS

*The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas  
*The Last of the Mohicans*, James Fenimore Cooper  
*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Brontë  
*A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens  
*We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, Shirley Jackson  
*Hawthorne's Short Stories*, Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley  
*The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway  
*Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel García Márquez  
*My Cousin Rachel*, Daphne du Maurier  
*Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Jules Verne  
*Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen  
*Persuasion*, Jane Austen  
*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs  
*Dracula*, Bram Stoker  
*The Turn of the Screw*, Henry James  
*Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott

## CONTEMPORARY FICTION AND NONFICTION

*First Impressions*, Charlie Lovett  
*The English Patient*, Michael Ondaatje  
*Bel Canto*, Ann Patchett  
*A Gentleman in Moscow*, Amor Towles  
*The Witch Elm*, Tana French  
*The Name of the Rose*, Umberto Eco  
*Washington Black*, Esi Edugyan  
*A Confederacy of Dunces*, John Kennedy Toole  
*The Tilted World*, Beth Ann Fennelly and Tom Franklin  
*The Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson  
*The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead  
*Educated*, Tara Westover  
*The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah  
*Serena*, Ron Rash  
*An American Marriage*, Tayari Jones  
*Americanah*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
*The Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro  
*The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri  
*The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho  
*Midnight's Children*, Salman Rushdie

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson  
*Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*, Carlo Rovelli  
*Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic*, David Quammen  
*She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity*, Carl Zimmer  
*The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars*, Dava Sobel  
*Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!*, Richard Feynman

## NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster*, Jon Krakauer  
*A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, Bill Bryson  
*Upstream*, Mary Oliver  
*Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer  
*Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wild*, Edward Abbey  
*The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century*, Kirk Wallace Johnson  
*A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold  
*H is for Hawk*, Helen Macdonald  
*The Lost City of Z*, David Grann  
*The Pursuit of Endurance: Harnessing the Record Breaking Power of Strength and Resilience*, Jennifer Pharr Davis

## SCIENCE FICTION, DYSTOPIAN, AND FANTASY

*A Darker Shade of Magic*, V.E. Schwab  
*Dune*, Frank Herbert  
*The Name of the Wind*, Patrick Rothfuss  
*Half a King*, Joe Abercrombie  
*Animal Farm*, George Orwell  
*The Three Body Problem*, Cixin Liu  
*The Left Hand of Darkness*, Ursula K. LeGuin  
*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy  
*The Silmarillion*, J. R. R. Tolkien  
*Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel



→ The recommended reading lists, AP course summer reading required titles, reading response assignments, and the summer reading log are available at: [baylorsschool.org/summerreading](http://baylorsschool.org/summerreading).