

Homer Aeschylus Sophocles Euripides Aristophanes Plato
 Aristotle Virgil Ovid Plutarch St. Augustine St. Thomas Aquinas
 Dante Alighieri Erasmus Francois Rabelais St. Theresa of Avila
 Michel de Montaigne Miguel De Cervantes Blaise Pascal Pierre
 Corneille Moliere Jean Racine Voltaire Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Stendhal Alessandro Manzoni Honore
 de Balzac Victor Hugo Alexis de Tocqueville Karl Marx Ivan
 Turgenev Fyodor Dostoyevsky Leo Tolstoy Henrik Ibsen Anton
 Chekhov Sigmund Freud Edmond Rostand Thomas Mann Marcel
 Proust Franz Kafka Papal Encyclicals Geoffrey Chaucer Sir Thomas
 Malory Sir Thomas More Christopher Marlowe William Shakespeare
 Ben Jonson Francis Bacon John Donne George Herbert John Milton
 Andrew Marvell Henry Vaughan John Bunyan John Dryden Daniel
 Defoe Jonathan Swift Alexander Pope Samuel Johnson Henry
 Fielding Laurence Sterne Thomas Gray Oliver Goldsmith James
 Boswell Richard Brinsley Sheridan William Blake William Wordsworth
 Samuel Taylor Coleridge Sir Walter Scott Charles Lamb William
 Hazlitt Jane Austen Lord Byron Percy Bysshe Shelley John Keats
 Cardinal Newman Alfred Tennyson Robert Browning Charles Dickens
 William Makepeace Thackeray Charles Darwin Anthony Trollope
 Charlotte Bronte Emily Bronte George Eliot Matthew Arnold Lewis
 Carroll Thomas Hardy Gerard Manley Hopkins Robert Louis
 Stevenson Oscar Wilde George Bernard Shaw Joseph Conrad Sir
 Arthur Conan Doyle A. E. Housman Kenneth Grahame William
 Butler Yeats Hilaire Belloc John Millington Synge G. K. Chesterton
 Sean O'Casey James Joyce George Orwell D.H. Lawrence Evelyn
 Waugh Graham Greene Samuel Beckett Washington Irving Ralph
 Waldo Emerson Nathaniel Hawthorne Edgar Allan Poe Abraham
 Lincoln Henry David Thoreau Herman Melville Walt Whitman
 Emily Dickinson Mark Twain Henry Adams Henry James Willa
 Cather Robert Frost Sinclair Lewis T. S. Eliot Eugene O'Neill
 F. Scott Fitzgerald William Faulkner Ernest Hemingway John
 Steinbeck Robert Penn Warren Richard Wright Ralph Ellison
 Tennessee Williams Arthur Miller J. D. Salinger

The St. Thomas Reading List for Liberal Learning

COLLEGE OF
St. Thomas

The St. Thomas Reading List for Liberal Learning

This booklet may prove to be one of the most valuable textbooks you will ever own. It is an instrument that will help you to gain a truly liberal education, whatever major field of study you may choose.

The best thing that your education can do for you is to enable you to educate yourself, not only during your school years but also throughout your life. The essential activity in attaining a well-balanced education is constant independent reading: reading in a great variety of areas; reading for personal exploration; reading for sheer pleasure — particularly the sheer pleasure of satisfying curiosity.

The St. Thomas Reading List for Liberal Learning is offered to you as an initial guide in developing your personal program of independent reading. It has no direct connection with any courses you will take, any examinations you will write, any credits you will earn. But you can be sure that if you examine it carefully and put it to regular use, your educational experience will be much wider and deeper than that of people for whom education is simply a matter of class hours and course assignments.

This list includes significant works of literature of many different types: philosophic works, novels, plays, epic poems, lyric poems, satires, biographies, works of social criticism. Many of these works have become common centers of reference because they have stamped deep impressions in the consciousness of cultivated people in our civilization. A person who has not gained some familiarity with works like *The Odyssey*, *The Divine Comedy*, *Don Quixote*, *Hamlet*, *Faust*, and *Gulliver's Travels* has been deprived of some of the major treasures of our cultural heritage.

These are works that well-educated people expect other educated people to know.

Of greater importance is the consideration that a reading program that includes the kinds of works you will find here will develop your ideas, expand your imagination, and illuminate for you many areas of human experience. Great literature is, after all, life itself as observed and interpreted by extraordinarily acute and interesting minds. One of the rewards of the study of great literature is the insight it gives you into the human response to the major problems of existence at various stages of history.

There are, to be sure, certain practical benefits in maintaining a personal reading program. For one thing, it is the only way to become a skillful writer. No amount of instruction or practice in composition will ever improve your writing unless you are a habitual reader, for only the habitual reader develops an intimacy with the written language. It is also a fact that examinations for graduate schools and professional schools often contain questions on famous works of literature. But these are secondary considerations. Your central concern should always be self-cultivation.

In examining the reading list, you should keep several things in mind:

1. The list has been designed to serve as a *basic* guide. Any well-read person who scans it will immediately think of titles that might logically be added to it. It is expected that your personal reading program will include many other books recommended by teachers, classmates, or other acquaintances. It is also expected that in your own reading you will make exciting discoveries that you will wish to share with your friends. One of the best learning situations is that in which students are informally comparing their responses to books they have read.

2. In carrying on your reading program, it is best to follow your own inclinations as far as the sequence of your readings is concerned. Many readers simply allow one writer to lead them to another. Others like to follow a systematic program — reading a series of great novels, for example, or studying the literature of a historical period, or examining a theme or an idea that has been treated by a number of great writers. If you can't decide where to begin, ask one of your teachers to suggest some good starting points.

3. An indispensable ingredient of education is a close acquaintance with the greatest of all books: the Bible. It is hardly necessary to specify *The Book of Job*, *Isaiah*, *The Psalms*, *The Gospel According to John*, or *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* as items in a reading list.

4. If you were fortunate enough to have some work in mythology in high school, you already know how valuable that study is for further explorations in the world of reading. If you aren't well acquainted with the classical myths, place Ovid's *Metamorphoses* among the key works in your reading program. You will also find it helpful to read Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*.

5. Most of the works included here are distinguished works of art as well as significant documents of our culture. Some works have been included, however, not because of their artistic merits but because of their widespread influence in Western thought: works by Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, De Tocqueville, Marx, Darwin, and Freud, as well as several papal encyclicals. Among such works, and perhaps in many of the other books, you will no doubt encounter ideas and opinions that you will vigorously reject. It is essential to remember that to refute a doctrine successfully, you must first make sure that you have a clear and full understanding of it.

The books that will matter most in your life will be the books that you go back to again and again. One might define a classic as a perennially re-readable work. Since it is more convenient to re-read books if you own them, you should start now to lay the foundation of a strong personal library, if you have not already begun that operation. You should assemble a good collection of general literature as well as of books related to your vocational interests. Here, too, you will find the St. Thomas Reading List for Liberal Learning to be a valuable guide.

As you plan your reading program and as you build your library, you may find it stimulating to keep in mind some observations on reading and lifelong liberal learning made long ago by the founder of the College of St. Thomas, Archbishop John Ireland, who was an avid reader. He said that he liked to see a student with a "passion for books" — the kind of passion that would cause him to "spend his spare dollars" to possess them.

"It is well," he said, "to know even the *backs* of books; it creates a curiosity to look inside. Then comes the temptation to read, which arouses in the rational soul a thirst for knowledge, expanding and growing with the growth of years."

The St. Thomas Reading List for Liberal Learning

The Ancient World

Homer (12th to 9th centuries B.C.)

The Iliad
The Odyssey

Aeschylus (525-456 B.C.)

Agamemnon
Prometheus Bound

Sophocles (495-406 B.C.)

Oedipus Rex
Antigone

Euripides (c. 480-406 B.C.)

Medea

Aristophanes (447-380 B.C.)

The Birds

Plato (c. 427-348 B.C.)

"Apology"
"Crito"
"Phaedo"

The Republic

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

Poetics
Politics

Virgil (70-19 B.C.)

The Aeneid

Ovid (43 B.C.-17 A.D.)

Metamorphoses

Plutarch (c. 46-120 A.D.)

"Life of Julius Caesar"
"Life of Mark Antony"

St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.)

Confessions

The Middle Ages

The Song of Roland (11th century)

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Commentaries on the Our Father; Hail Mary, and Apostles' Creed

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)

The Divine Comedy

The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi (14th century)

Continental Literature of the Modern Period

Erasmus (c. 1469-1536)

The Praise of Folly

Francois Rabelais (1494-1553)

Gargantua and Pantagruel

St. Theresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Autobiography

Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592)

Essays

Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)

Don Quixote

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

Pensées

Pierre Corneille (1606-1684)

The Cid

Molière (1622-1673)

The Misanthrope
The Miser

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)	Robert Browning (1812-1889)	Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)	Sean O'Casey (1880-1964)
Poems, especially "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" "Kubla Khan"	Poems, especially "My Last Duchess," "Andrea del Sarto," "Rabbi Ben Ezra"	Poems, especially "Hurrahing in Window"	<i>Juno and the Paycock</i>
Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)	Charles Dickens (1812-1870)	Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)	James Joyce (1882-1941)
<i>The Heart of Midlothian</i>	<i>Pickwick Papers</i> <i>David Copperfield</i> <i>Bleak House</i> <i>Great Expectations</i>	<i>Treasure Island</i> <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	<i>Dubliners</i>
Charles Lamb (1775-1834)	William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863)	Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)	D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930)
Essays, especially "Old China," "Imperfect Sympathies," "Dream Children"	<i>Vanity Fair</i>	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	<i>Sons and Lovers</i>
William Hazlitt (1778-1830)	Charles Darwin (1809-1882)	George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)	George Orwell (1903-1950)
Essays, especially "On Going a Journey," "My First Acquaintance with Poets," "The Fight"	<i>The Origin of Species</i>	<i>Pygmalion</i>	1984
Jane Austen (1775-1817)	Anthony Trollope (1815-1882)	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)	Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966)
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	<i>Barchester Towers</i>	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>	<i>A Handful of Dust</i> <i>Brideshead Revisited</i>
George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824)	Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855)	A. E. Housman (1859-1936)	Graham Greene (1904-)
Poems, especially <i>The Vision of Judgment</i>	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	<i>A Shropshire Lad</i>	<i>The Power and the Glory</i>
Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)	Emily Brontë (1818-1848)	Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932)	Samuel Beckett (1906-)
Poems, especially "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty," "Ode to the West Wind," "Ozymandias"	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>	<i>Waiting for Godot</i>
John Keats (1795-1821)	George Eliot (1819-1880)	William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)	<i>American Literature</i>
Poems, especially "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "The Eve of St. Agnes," the Odes	<i>The Mill on the Floss</i>	Poems, especially "The Song of Wandering Aengus," "The Wild Swans at Coole," "Sailing to Byzantium," "The Second Coming," "Among School Children"	<i>The Federalist Papers</i> (1788)
John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890)	Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)	Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953)	Washington Irving (1783-1859)
<i>The Idea of a University</i>	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> <i>Through the Looking-glass</i>	<i>The Path to Rome</i>	"Rip Van Winkle" "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)	Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)	John Millington Synge (1871-1909)	Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
Poems, especially "The Lotos Eaters," "Ulysses," "The Passing of Arthur"	<i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i> Poems, especially "The Darkling Thrush," "Afterwards," "Channel Firing," "The Convergence of the Twain"	<i>The Playboy of the Western World</i>	Essays, especially "Self-Reliance," "Compensation," "Nature"
		G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)	Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)
		<i>Orthodoxy</i>	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
			Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)
			Tales, especially, "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Masque of the Red Death"; Poems, especially "Annabel Lee," "The Raven," "To Helen," "Ulalume"

Additional works which, in the judgment of the user of this list, ought to be included:

T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)

Poems, especially "The Wasteland," "Ash Wednesday"
Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953)

Long Day's Journey into Night

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)

The Great Gatsby

William Faulkner (1897-1962)

The Sound and the Fury
The Bear

"A Rose for Emily"
Spotted Horses

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)

The Sun Also Rises
Stories, especially "The Killers,"
"Big Two-Hearted River"

John Steinbeck (1902-1968)

Grapes of Wrath

Robert Penn Warren (1905-)

All the King's Men

Richard Wright (1908-1960)

Native Son

Ralph Ellison (1914-)

Invisible Man

Tennessee Williams (1914-1982)

The Glass Menagerie

Arthur Miller (1915-)

Death of a Salesman

J. D. Salinger (1919-)

The Catcher in the Rye

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Addresses and letters, especially
"Gettysburg Address," "Second
Inaugural Address," letters to
Horace Greeley, Mrs. Bixby

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Walden

Herman Melville (1819-1891)

Moby Dick

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Leaves of Grass, especially "Song
of Myself"

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Poems, especially "I Never Saw a
Moor," "There's a Certain Slant of
Light," "I Taste a Liquor Never
Brewed," "I Died for Beauty,"
"Because I Could Not Stop for
Death"

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Tom Sawyer
Huckleberry Finn

Henry Adams (1838-1918)

The Education of Henry Adams

Henry James (1843-1916)

The American
The Ambassadors

Willa Cather (1873-1947)

O Pioneers!
My Antonia

Robert Frost (1875-1963)

Poems, especially "Mending
Wall," "The Road Not Taken,"
"The Death of the Hired Man,"
"Birches," "Stopping by Woods"

Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951)

Babbitt
Main Street

Title

Author