

Homer Aeschylus Sophocles Euripides Aristophanes Plato
 Aristotle Virgil Ovid Plutarch St. Augustine St. Thomas Aquinas
 Dante Alighieri Niccolo Machiavelli Erasmus Francois Rabelais
 St. Theresa of Avila Michel de Montaigne Miguel de Cervantes Pedro
 Calderon de la Barca 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 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 Mary Shelley 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 Virginia Woolf George
 Orwell D.H. Lawrence Evelyn Waugh Graham Greene Samuel Beckett
 Dylan Thomas Washington Irving Ralph Waldo Emerson Nathaniel
 Hawthorne Edgar Allan Poe Abraham Lincoln Henry David Thoreau
 Frederick Douglass 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 Eudora Welty Ralph Ellison Tennessee Williams
 Flannery O'Connor 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 persons 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.

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. The blank pages at the end of the list are there to invite such additions. 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

This publication is the second edition of the College of St. Thomas *Reading List for Liberal Learning*. A few titles from the first edition have been omitted, and a few new titles included. We thank all whose suggestions have helped us in making this revision. As with the first publication, we offer this list in the hope that students will find it useful for a lifetime continuing education, and that teachers will use it in their endeavor to inculcate in their students a love of books.

Joseph B. Connors
John G. Nemo
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Editors

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6. Since the list has been designed to be the basis of each student's *personal, independent* reading program, it includes only such works as can be read with understanding by most persons who have had twelve years of training in reading, whether or not they have had specialized instruction in, say, mathematics or science or philosophy. It therefore does not include books for which some special background is necessary, such as Newton's *Principia*, Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, Marx's *Das Kapital*, Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, and other classic works that you may encounter in your college courses.
- 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 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."
- 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 Letter 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, 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 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

Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)

The Prince

Erasmus (c. 1469-1536)

The Praise of Folly

François 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

Pedro Calderon de la Barca (1600-1681)

Life Is a Dream

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

Pensées

- Pierre Corneille (1606-1684)
The Cid
- Molière (1622-1673)
The Misanthrope
The Miser
- Jean Racine (1639-1699)
Phaedra
- Voltaire (1694-1778)
Candide
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
Confessions
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)
Faust
- Stendhal (1783-1842)
The Red and the Black
- Alessandro Manzoni (1785-1873)
The Betrothed
- Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850)
Old Goriot
- Victor Hugo (1802-1885)
Les Misérables
- Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)
Democracy in America
- Ivan Turgenev (1818-1885)
Fathers and Sons
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)
Crime and Punishment
The Brothers Karamazov
- Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)
War and Peace
- Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906)
Hedda Gabler
- Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)
Stories
The Cherry Orchard
- Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
The Interpretation of Dreams
- Edmond Rostand (1868-1918)
Cyrano de Bergerac
- Thomas Mann (1875-1955)
The Magic Mountain
- Marcel Proust (1871-1922)
Remembrance of Things Past
- Franz Kafka (1883-1924)
The Trial
- Papal Encyclicals
Rerum Novarum (Pope Leo XIII, 1891)
Quadragesimo Anno (Pope Pius XI, 1931)
Mediator Dei (Pope Pius XII, 1947)
Pacem in Terris (Pope John XXIII, 1963)
- British and Irish Literature**
- Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340-1400)
Prologue to the Canterbury Tales
and *The Knight's Tale, The Pardoner's Tale, and The Nun's Priest's Tale*
- Everyman* (15th century)
- Sir Thomas Malory (d. 1471)
Morte d'Arthur
- Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)
Utopia
- Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593)
The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus
- William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Henry IV, Part I
Hamlet
Macbeth
King Lear
Antony and Cleopatra
The Tempest
- Ben Jonson (1572-1637)
Volpone
- Francis Bacon (1561-1626)
Essays, especially "Of Truth," "Of Marriage and Single Life," "Of Studies"
- John Donne (c. 1572-1631)
Poems, especially "The Good Morrow," "The Canonization," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "Holy Sonnets"
- George Herbert (1593-1633)
Poems, especially "Virtue," "Discipline," "The Temper," "The Pulley," "Love"
- John Milton (1608-1674)
"Lycidas," "On His Blindness," *Paradise Lost*
- Andrew Marvell (1621-1678)
Poems, especially "To His Coy Mistress," "The Garden," "The Definition of Love"
- Henry Vaughan (1622-1695)
Poems, especially "The Retreat," "They Have All Gone into the World of Light"
- John Bunyan (1628-1688)
The Pilgrim's Progress
- John Dryden (1631-1700)
"Alexander's Feast"
MacFlecknoe
- Daniel Defoe (c. 1660-1731)
Robinson Crusoe
- Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)
Gulliver's Travels
A Modest Proposal
- Alexander Pope (1688-1744)
"The Rape of the Lock"
An Essay on Man
- Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)
Rasselas
- Henry Fielding (1707-1754)
Tom Jones
- Laurence Sterne (1713-1768)
Tristram Shandy
- Thomas Gray (1716-1771)
"Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
- Oliver Goldsmith (c. 1730-1774)
The Deserted Village
She Stoops to Conquer
- James Boswell (1740-1795)
The Life of Samuel Johnson
- Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816)
The Rivals
- William Blake (1757-1827)
Poems, especially "The Chimney Sweeper," "London," "The Tiger"

- William Wordsworth (1770-1850)
Poems, especially "Tintern Abbey," "Ode: Intimations of Immortality," "The Solitary Reaper," "The World Is Too Much with Us," *The Prelude, Book I*
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)
Poems, especially "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," "Kubla Khan"
- Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)
The Heart of Midlothian
- Charles Lamb (1775-1834)
Essays, especially "Old China," "Imperfect Sympathies," "Dream Children"
- William Hazlitt (1778-1830)
Essays, especially "On Going a Journey," "My First Acquaintance with Poets," "The Fight"
- Jane Austen (1775-1817)
Pride and Prejudice
- George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824)
Poems, especially *The Vision of Judgment*
- Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)
Poems, especially "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty," "Ode to the West Wind," "Ozymandias"
- John Keats (1795-1821)
Poems, especially "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "The Eve of St. Agnes," the Odes
- Mary Shelley (1797-1851)
Frankenstein
- John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890)
The Idea of a University
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)
Poems, especially "The Lotus Eaters," "Ulysses," "The Passing of Arthur"
- Robert Browning (1812-1889)
Poems, especially "My Last Duchess," "Andrea del Sarto," "Rabbi Ben Ezra"
- Charles Dickens (1812-1870)
Pickwick Papers
David Copperfield
Bleak House
Great Expectations
- William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863)
Vanity Fair
- Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
The Origin of Species
- Anthony Trollope (1815-1882)
Barchester Towers
- Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855)
Jane Eyre
- Emily Brontë (1818-1848)
Wuthering Heights
- George Eliot (1819-1880)
The Mill on the Floss
- Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)
Culture and Anarchy
Poems, especially "Dover Beach," "The Scholar Gypsy"
- Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Through the Looking-glass
- Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)
The Mayor of Casterbridge
Poems, especially "The Darkling Thrush," "Afterwards," "Channel Firing," "The Convergence of the Twain"
- Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)
Poems, especially "Hurrahing in Harvest," "God's Grandeur," "The Windhover"
- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)
Treasure Island
Dr. Jeekyll and Mr. Hyde
- Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
The Importance of Being Earnest
- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)
Pygmalion
- Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)
Youth
Heart of Darkness
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
- A. E. Housman (1859-1936)
A Shropshire Lad
- Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932)
The Wind in the Willows
- William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)
Poems, especially "The Song of Wandering Aengus," "The Wild Swans at Coole," "Sailing to Byzantium," "The Second Coming," "Among School Children"
- Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953)
The Path to Rome
- John Millington Synge (1871-1909)
The Playboy of the Western World
- G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)
Orthodoxy
- Sean O'Casey (1880-1964)
Juno and the Paycock
- James Joyce (1882-1941)
Dubliners
- Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)
To the Lighthouse
- D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930)
Sons and Lovers
- George Orwell (1903-1950)
1984
- Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966)
A Handful of Dust
Brideshead Revisited
- Graham Greene (1904)
The Power and the Glory
- Samuel Beckett (1906-)
Waiting for Godot
- Dylan Thomas (1914-1953)
Poems, especially "Fern Hill," "A Refusal to Mourn...", and "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"
- American Literature*
The Federalist Papers (1788)
Washington Irving (1783-1859)
"Rip Van Winkle"
"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"

