

**AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment  
2011**

**(This assignment is for students taking AP Literature as a “stand-alone” course.)**

We are asking that you read two books over the summer: *The Uncommon Reader* and one other book from the list below.

*The Uncommon Reader* is a short work of imaginative fiction by Alan Bennett in which a 70 year old monarch takes up reading. On the Wednesday that her dogs run into a traveling library, the Queen borrows a book out of politeness, beginning a year of obsessive reading. Narrated in a light, witty style, this novella explores why and how one reads. *The Uncommon Reader* will launch a discussion of our own reading habits.

In choosing one book from the list below, do not choose a book you have already read. Find a title on the list that you’ve always wanted to read and take this opportunity to do just that.

On the first day of school, be prepared to talk about *The Uncommon Reader* and the choice book. If you read either book early in the summer, please review prior to the first day of school. If you read more than one book off the list, just be prepared to talk about one of them.

*(This list is adapted from an original list by Norma J. Wilkerson and Sandra Effinger of works that have appeared on the open question of the AP Literature exam.)*

**A**

*Adam Bede* by George Eliot  
*The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton  
*Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood  
*All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren  
*America is in the Heart* by Carlos Bulosan  
*An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser  
*The American* by Henry James  
*Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy  
*Another Country* by James Baldwin  
*Armies of the Night* by Norman Mailer  
*Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by James Weldon Johnson  
*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

**B**

*A Bend in the River* by V. S. Naipaul  
*Billy Budd* by Herman Melville  
*Black Boy* by Richard Wright  
*Bleak House* by Charles Dickens  
*Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya

*The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison  
*Bone: A Novel* by Fae M. Ng  
*The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan  
*Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene  
*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

## C

*Catch-22* by Joseph Heller  
*Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Centaur* by John Updike  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok  
*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker  
*Coming Through Slaughter* by Michael Ondaatje

## D

*Daisy Miller* by Henry James  
*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens  
*The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy  
*Delta Wedding* by Eudora Welty  
*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Anne Tyler  
*The Diviners* by Margaret Laurence  
*The Dollmaker* by Harriet Arnot  
*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes  
*Dreaming in Cuban* by Cristina Garcia  
*Dutchman* by Amiri Baraka/Leroi Jones

## E

*East of Eden* by John Steinbeck  
*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

## F

*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway  
*A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry  
*Fifth Business* by Robertson Davis  
*The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway

## G

*A Gesture Life* by Chang-Rae Lee  
*Going After Cacciato* by Tim O'Brien  
*The Good Soldier* by Ford Maddox Ford

*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin  
*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift

## H

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood  
*Hard Times* by Charles Dickens  
*The Heart of the Matter* by Graham Greene  
*A High Wind in Jamaica* by Richard Hughes  
*House Made of Dawn* by N Scott Momaday  
*The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton  
*The House of Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

## I

*The Iliad* by Homer  
The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai  
In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien  
In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

## J

*Jasmine* by Bharati Mukherjee  
*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan  
*Joseph Andrews* by Henry Fielding  
*The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair

## K

*Kafka on the Shore* by Haruki Murakami

## L

*A Lesson before Dying* by Ernest Gaines  
*Light in August* by William Faulkner  
*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
*Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad  
*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding  
*The Loved One* by Evelyn Waugh  
*Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich

## M

*Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis  
*Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen  
*The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy  
*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

*Middle Passage* by V. S. Naipaul  
*The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot  
*Miss Lonelyhearts* by Nathanael West  
*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville  
*Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe  
*Monkey Bridge* by Lan Cao  
*The Moor's Last Sigh* by Salman Rushdie

N

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Native Son* by Richard Wright  
*Native Speaker* by Chang-Rae Lee  
*1984* by George Orwell  
*No-No Boy* by John Okada

O

*Obasan* by Joy Kogawa  
*Old School* by Tobias Wolff  
*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather  
*The Optimist's Daughter* by D. H. Lawrence  
*Orlando: A Biography* by Virginia Woolf  
*Our Mutual Friend* by Charles Dickens  
*Out of Africa* by Isaak Dinesen

P

*Pale Fire* by Vladimir Nabokov  
*Pamela* by Samuel Richardson  
*Paradise Lost* by John Milton  
*Père Goriot* by Honore de Balzac  
*Persuasion* by Jane Austen  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde  
*The Plague* by Albert Camus  
*Pnin* by Vladimir Nabokov  
*Pocho* by Jose Antonio Villarreal  
*Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James  
*The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene  
*Praisesong for the Widow* by Paule Marshall  
*Push* by Sapphire

R

*Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow

*Redburn* by Herman Melville  
*The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
*Reservation Blues* by Sherman Alexie  
*The Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy  
*A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean  
*A Room with a View* by E. M. Forster

## S

*The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer  
*Sent for You Yesterday* by John Edgar Wideman  
*Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser  
*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson  
*Sons and Lovers* by D. H. Lawrence  
*The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar  
*The Stone Angel* by Margaret Laurence  
*The Street* by Ann Petry  
*Sula* by Toni Morrison  
*Surfacing* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway

## T

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens  
*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy  
*A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*Tom Jones* by Henry Fielding  
*Tracks* by Louise Erdrich  
*Tristram Shandy* by Laurence Sterne  
*Typical American* by Gish Jen

## U

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

## V

*Victory* by Joseph Conrad

## W

*The Warden* by Anthony Trollope  
*Washington Square* by Henry James  
*The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope  
*We Were the Mulvaney's* by Joyce Carol Oates  
*Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys  
*Winter in the Blood* by James Welch

*Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor

*Z*

*Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez