

FROM AARP BULLETIN'S "MUST-READ LIST"
BY JACQUELYN MITCHARD

AARP'S 20 NOVELS YOU NEED TO READ!







To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

~A story about justice and deeply held beliefs, right and wrong, and the agony of growing up.

True Grit* by Charles Portis

~The story of Mattie Ross and her quest justice with the rascally sheriff Rooster Cogburn.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

~A coming-of-age novel about Frankie Nolan in immigrant poverty in pre-war New York.

The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett

~Debut of the hard-boiled detective novel; made the list for the line "the statue was stuff dreams are made of."

Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurty

~The story of two strangely literate Texas rangers who decide to become cattle ranchers.

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

~A story of psychological obsession and immortality; "Last night, I dreamed I went to Manderley again."

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe* by Douglas Adams

~Science fiction; the sequel to 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.'

Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

~The story of friendless, orphaned Jane Eyre, who takes a job as a governess and finds herself in love with the child's guardian.



The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

~Story of an Andalusian shepherd boy, Santiago, who goes searching for a treasure.

Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell

~The story of one woman's doomed love and one civilization's doomed quest.

The Magus* by John Fowles

~A novel that is part romance, part horror, part Gothic book, in which nothing and no one is what it seems.

In Our Time by Ernest Hemingway

~Hemingway's first published collection of short stories that tell about the years before, during, and after WWI.

Different Seasons* by Stephen King

~Four tales of outlandish, commonplace, and surprising terror.

The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson

~Four visitors at Hill House are unaware the mansion will soon choose one of them to make its own. (Teen Fiction)

Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy

~The story of Russian Anna Karenina, who faces parallel moral and religious dilemmas.

Red Dragon* by Thomas Harris

~Prequel to 'Silence of the Lambs'; gruesome and terrifying.

The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara

~Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the Civil War that tells of three hot sunsets in Gettysburg; why even the beautiful and brave can be wrong while the glum, stubborn, and foolish can be as right as dawn.

Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner

~The story of two couples growing up together; a true story about loyalty and its limits.

The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

~A chronicle of the Jazz Age, the haves and the have-nots.

Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White

~Those who think of this small book about a gallant spider's fight to save the life of a runt pig as a children's story are letting children have all the fun.

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A* indicates that the title is available as an e-book.

To find more reading lists, please see staff at the Ask desk or visit ppld.org/reading-lists!

Revised June 2018