

Over 50? AARP recommends 20 novels you “need to read”!

From AARP Bulletin’s “Must-Read List” by Jacquelyn Michard

Note: An * after a title indicates it is also available in our Digital Collection as an eBook.

To Kill a Mockingbird*

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

by Harper Lee

True Grit* [Westerns]

[The story of Mattie Ross and her quest for justice with the rascally sheriff Rooster Cogburn]

Charles Portis

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

[A coming-of-age novel about Frankie Nolan in immigrant poverty in prewar New York]

Betty Smith

The Maltese Falcon*

[Debut of the hard-boiled detective novel; made the list for the line “the statue was stuff dreams are made of”]

Dashiell Hammett

Lonesome Dove*

[The story of two strangely literate Texas rangers who decide to become cattle ranchers]

Larry McMurty

Rebecca*

[A story of psychological obsession and immortality; “Last night, I dreamed I went to Manderley again.”]

Daphne du Maurier

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*

[Science Fiction]

[Sequel to *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*]

Douglas Adams

The Alchemist*

[Story of an Andalusian shepherd boy, Santiago, who goes searching for a treasure]

Paul Coelho

Jane Eyre*

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

Charlotte Bronte

Gone With the Wind*

[The story of one woman’s doomed love and one civilization’s doomed quest]

Margaret Mitchell

The Magus*

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

John Fowles

In Our Time

[Hemingway’s first published collection of short stories that tell about the years before, during, and after WWI]

Ernest Hemingway

Different Seasons* [Paperback]

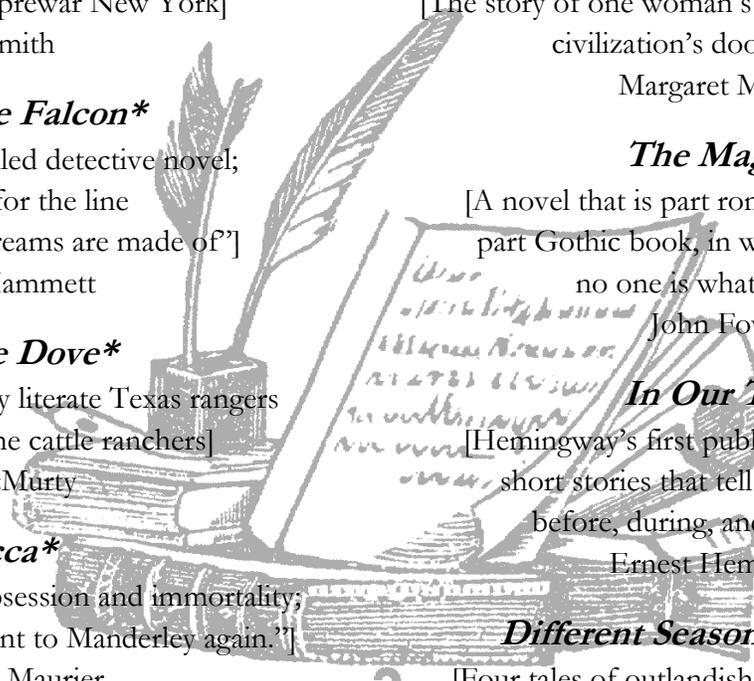
[Four tales of outlandish, commonplace and surprising terror]

Stephen King

The Haunting of Hill House* [Teen Book]

[Four visitors at Hill House are unaware the mansion will soon choose one of them to make its own]

Shirley Jackson



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Anna Karenina*

[The story of Russian Anna Karenina who faces parallel moral and religious dilemmas]

Leo Tolstoy

Red Dragon*

[Prequel to *Silence of the Lambs*; gruesome and terrifying]

Thomas Harris

The Killer Angels*

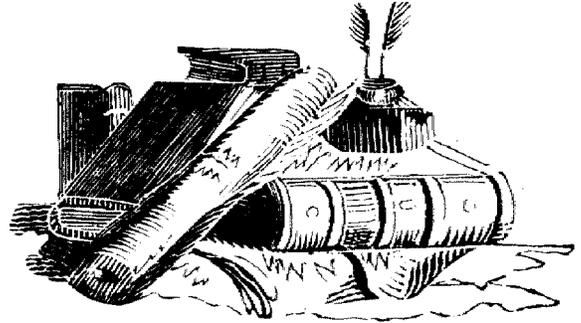
[A Pulitzer Prize winning novel of the Civil War that tells of three hot sunsets in Gettysburg and why even the beautiful and brave can be wrong while the glum, stubborn and foolish can be as right as dawn]

Michael Shaara

Crossing to Safety*

[The story of two couples growing “up” together; a true story about loyalty and its limits]

Wallace Stegner



The Great Gatsby*

[A chronicle of the Jazz Age and the haves and have-nots]

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Charlotte's Web* [Children's Book]

[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.]

E.B. White

Visit ppld.org/reading-lists to find other lists you might enjoy!