

**SHARED READING (for World Civ II): all students must read *1984* by George Orwell.** *Science fiction. 1948.* Winston Smith, a worker at the Ministry of Truth in the future political entity of Oceania, puts his life on the line when he joins a covert brotherhood in rebelling against the Party that controls all human thought and action.

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**In addition to *1984*, each student must read TWO books from the list below:**

***Maya's Notebook* by Isabel Allende.** *Mystery. 2013.* After a recent loss, Maya escapes her downward spiral of drugs, alcohol, and petty crime to a remote Chilean island where she unravels the mysteries of her family and her life.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.** *Science fiction/ dystopian. 1985.* In what was once the United States, now called the Republic of Gilead, the ruling class reacts to social unrest and a declining birth rate with extremely repressive policies.

***Emma* by Jane Austen.** *Classic, humor. 1815.* In the provincial world of Highbury, Emma Woodhouse plays matchmaker, sometimes with unintended consequences.

***Spy Princess: The Life of Noir Inayat Khan* by Shrabani Basu.** *Nonfiction biography. 2006.* Khan, code named "Madeleine," the first woman wireless transmitter in WWII, was trained by Britain's SOE and assumed the most dangerous resistance post in underground Paris.

***The Little Girls* by Elizabeth Bowen.** *Adventure. 1964.* In 1914, three eleven-year-old girls buried a box in a thicket on the coast of England shortly before World War I sent their lives on divergent paths. Nearly fifty years later, their paths cross again.

***A Testament of Youth* by Vera Brittain.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1933.* Tells of the author's time as a nurse in the armed services during World War I, covering her work in London, Malta, and near France's Western Front.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.** *Classic. 1847.* Jane, a plain and penniless orphan in nineteenth-century England, accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her melancholy employer, a man with a terrible secret. (Note: those who read *Jane Eyre* could consider reading its modern heir, *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys afterwards; see below.)

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.** *Classic. 1848.* The passionate love story of stubborn Cathy and wild-as-the-wind Heathcliff in the rugged land of the Yorkshire moors has been a favorite since its publication.

***Possession* by A.S. Byatt.** *Historical fiction; Mystery. 1990.* Booker Prize winner. The tale of two young scholars researching the lives of two Victorian poets; a novel of wit and romance, at once an intellectual mystery and a triumphant love story.

***The Night Tiger* by Yangtze Choo.** *Fantasy; mystery. 2020.* The fates of a dance hall girl and an orphan boy entangle over an old Chinese superstition about men who turn into tigers

***Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke.** *Fantasy. 2010.* In 1806, most people believe magic to be dead in England--until the reclusive Mr. Norrell reveals his powers and another magician emerges: the young, daring Jonathan Strange.

***Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.** *Adventure; Classic. 1719.* An Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.** *Classic. 1859.* "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Thus begins the tale of Sydney Carton, a disreputable lawyer, and his involvement in the French Revolution.

***Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow.** *Science fiction. 2008.* In San Francisco, having been interrogated for days by officials of a police state that has emerged after a terrorist attack, seventeen-year-old Marcus decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

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**Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier.** *Classic; suspense.* 1938. The second Mrs. de Winter narrates the haunting events surrounding her marriage to Maxim de Winter and her growing obsession with his mysterious first wife, the beautiful, now dead Rebecca.

**The Vanishing Act of Esmé Lennox by Maggie Farrell.** *Realistic fiction.* 2008. Esmé, a girl sent to an asylum at the age of 16, is forgotten by her family—until the asylum is shuttered and someone must take care of her.

**The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde.** *Fantasy; humor.* 2001. Thursday Next works in Literary Detection in a surreal version of Great Britain, circa 1885, where time travel and cloning are commonplace.

**A Room With A View by E.M. Forster.** *Classic.* 1908. A charming young English woman is at war with the snobbery of her own class and with her conflicting desires when she finds herself attracted to someone deemed unsuitable for her.

**My Brilliant Career by Miles Franklin.** *Historical fiction.* 1980. A semi-autobiographical novel of a hot-tempered girl growing up in Australia around 1900, who aspires to become a person of note despite the prejudices against women at that time.

**Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy; humor.* 1996. The world will come to an end next Saturday. Except: a fast-living demon and a fussy angel have grown fond of Earth's mortals and decide to try to stop the Apocalypse.

**Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons.** *Classic; humor.* 1932. Flora Poste finds herself in a gloomy, overwrought world and proceeds to organize everyone out of their romantic tragedies and into the pleasures of modern life in the 1930s.

**These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong.** *Fantasy.* 2020. Shanghai *Romeo and Juliet* retelling with Chinese gangs.

**Our Man in Havana by Graham Greene.** *Adventure.* 1958. A vacuum cleaner salesman who is short of money accepts an assignment as an M16 agent in Havana, where soon his faked intelligence reports start coming true.

**Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro.** *Classic.* 1990. A young woman looks back on her life with former classmates at an exclusive British boarding school and reflects on what made them so special.

**A Certain Justice by P.D. James.** *Mystery.* 1997. A lawyer is murdered soon after successfully defending her client who was on trial for murder. An investigator learns the client recently became engaged to the lawyer's daughter. Is there a connection?

**Unmarriageable by Soniah Kamal.** *Fiction.* 2019. Set in modern day Pakistan, Alys Binat has sworn never to marry--until an encounter with one Mr. Darsee at a wedding makes her reconsider. A modern retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Small Island by Andrea Levy.** *Realistic fiction.* 2005. Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 hoping to start a new life with her husband, but they find themselves struggling to fit into the strange culture of their foreign "motherland."

**Master of Thin Air: Life and Death on the World's Highest Peaks by Andrew Lock.** *Nonfiction; memoir.* 2014. Opens with a fall down an almost vertical rock ramp and recounts Lock's sixteen-year journey to summit all of the world's eight-thousanders.

**Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel.** *Science fiction.* 2014. In a pandemic-ravaged society, actress Kirsten Raymonde travels with a troupe performing Shakespeare and finds herself in a community in which a prophet will not let anyone leave alive.

**Enduring Love by Ian McEwan.** *Realistic fiction.* 1997. After a chance meeting, Jed Perry begins to stalk author Joe Rose. Driven by religious zeal and misdirected love, the strange young man will slowly unravel each strand of Joe's life.

**Black Swan Green by David Mitchell.** *Historical fiction.* 2006. Tracks a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor in a Worcestershire village in 1982 as the Cold War is coming near an end in England.

***V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore.** *Graphic novel.* 1990. A classic of the genre, set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism.

***Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.** *Historical fantasy/adventure.* 2019. The Mayan god of death sends a young woman on a harrowing, life-changing journey in this one-of-a-kind fairy tale inspired by Mexican folklore.

***The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje.** *Historical fiction.* 2011. Michael, now an adult, recalls the three-week long sea voyage he took as a boy in the early 1950s. During the trip across the Indian Ocean the boy meets a variety of characters on board.

***White is for Witching* by Helen Oyeyemi.** *Mystery* 2014. Sixteen-year-old Miranda struggles against the menacing haunted house she inhabits and a rare eating disease that causes her to eat non-edible substances.

***My Name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk.** *Mystery; Historical fiction.* 2002. A fiendishly devious mystery set amid the splendor and religious intrigue of sixteenth-century Istanbul by a celebrated contemporary Turkish novelist.

***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.** *Classic.* 1948. A Zulu pastor and his son's struggles under white rule in South Africa.

***Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal* by Mal Peet.** *Historical Fiction.* 2010. When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box of coded messages. Out of the past comes another Tamar a resistance fighter from Nazi-occupied Holland.

***Nation* by Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy; alternate history.* 2008. After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, set about rebuilding their community.

***Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys.** *Adventure; classic.* 1966. Postcolonial novel centered upon Bertha, the Jamaican madwoman in the attic in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, to which this novel could make an interesting follow-up read.

***East, West* by Salman Rushdie.** *Short stories.* 1995. Nine stories that reveal the oceanic distances and the unexpected intimacies between East and West.

***Sugar in the Blood: A Family's Story of Slavery and Empire* by Andrea Stuart.** *Nonfiction; history.* 2013. Stuart uses her own family's Caribbean story as the pivot for this epic tale of migration, colonialism, slavery, settlement, and survival.

***Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.** *Adventure; satire; classic.* 1726. A classic satire that recounts four remarkable journeys of a ship's surgeon, Lemuel Gulliver, including one stay in a land of six-inch-high people and another in a land of giants.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.** *Classic.* 1891. A handsome, dissolute man who sells his soul for eternal youth is horrified to see the reflection of his degeneration in the distorted features of his portrait.

***The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester.** *Nonfiction; history.* 2009. The Oxford English Dictionary took seventy years to complete, drawing from tens of thousands of brilliant minds. Hidden within the rituals of the OED's creation is a fascinating and mysterious story of two of them.

***Jeeves in the Morning* by P.G. Wodehouse.** *Classic, humor.* 1946. Bertie Wooster, a dimwitted aristocrat with a heart of gold, is soon embroiled in a host of calamitous mishaps. Fortunately, Bertie's butler Jeeves is always nearby to perform a rescue.