Top 100 American Lit Titles

Listed below are the top 100 titles for the American literature classroom, ranked in order of popularity, chosen by American literature teachers from across the country.

<https://www.perfectionlearning.com/catalog/category/view/s/top-100-american-lit-titles/id/1662/>

**1. The Great Gatsby**

F. Scott Fitzgerald

**2. The Scarlet Letter**

Nathaniel Hawthorne

**3. The Adventures   
of Huckleberry Finn**

Mark Twain

**4. Of Mice and Men**

John Steinbeck

**5. To Kill a Mockingbird**

Harper Lee

**6. The Catcher in the Rye**

J.D. Salinger

**7. The Grapes of Wrath**

John Steinbeck

**8. Their Eyes   
Were Watching God**

Zora Neale Hurston

**9. The Crucible**

Arthur Miller

**10. The Things They Carried**

Tim O’Brien

**11. The Awakening**

Kate Chopin

**12. Ethan Frome**

Edith Wharton

**13. Fahrenheit 451**

Ray Bradbury

**14. A Raisin in the Sun**

Lorraine Hansberry

**15. The Red Badge of Courage**

Stephen Crane

**16. The House on Mango Street**

Sandra Cisneros

**17. The Jungle**

Upton Sinclair

**18. A Separate Peace**

John Knowles

**19. The Sun Also Rises**

Ernest Hemingway

**20. Anthem**

Ayn Rand

**21. The Old Man and the Sea**

Ernest Hemingway

**22. As I Lay Dying**

William Faulkner

**23. The Color Purple**

Alice Walker

**24. A Farewell to Arms**

Ernest Hemingway

**25. The Secret Life of Bees**

Sue Monk Kidd

**26. Invisible Man**

Ralph Ellison

**27. Native Son (abridged)**

Richard Wright

**28. My Antonia**

Willa Cather

**29. Narrative of the Life   
of Frederick Douglass,   
an American Slave**

Frederick Douglass

**30. Beloved**

Toni Morrison

**31. Hiroshima**

John Hersey

**32. Moby Dick**

Herman Melville

**33. One Flew over   
the Cuckoo’s Nest**

Ken Kesey

**34. Black Boy**

Richard Wright

**35. Bless Me, Ultima**

Rudolfo Anaya

**36. Death of a Salesman**

Arthur Miller

**37. In Cold Blood:   
A True Account of a Multiple   
Murder and Its Consequences**

Truman Capote

**38. A Lesson Before Dying**

Ernest J. Gaines

**39. Slaughterhouse-Five**

Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

**40. The Poisonwood Bible**

Barbara Kingsolver

**41. The Bluest Eye**

Toni Morrison

**42. The Sound and the Fury**

William Faulkner

**43. The Adventures   
of Tom Sawyer**

Mark Twain

**44. Catch-22**

Joseph Heller

**45. The Chosen**

Chaim Potok

**46. East of Eden**

John Steinbeck

**47. I Know Why   
the Caged Bird Sings**

Maya Angelou

**48. Walden and Other Writings**

Henry David Thoreau

**49. The Bean Trees**

Barbara Kingsolver

**50. Billy Budd**

Herman Melville

**51. The Color of Water:   
A Black Man's Tribute   
to His White Mother**

James McBride

**52. Maggie**

Stephen Crane

**53. Song of Solomon**

Toni Morrison

**54. The Turn of the Screw   
and Other Short Novels**

Henry James

**55. Alas, Babylon**

Pat Frank

**56. Annie John**

Jamaica Kincaid

**57. The Call of the Wild**

Jack London

**58. Cold Mountain**

Charles Frazier

**59. Fallen Angels**

Walter Dean Myers

**60. For Whom the Bell Tolls**

Ernest Hemingway

**61. The Fountainhead**

Ayn Rand

**62. Into the Wild**

Jon Krakauer

**63. The Last of the Mohicans**

James Fenimore Cooper

**64. A Prayer for Owen Meany**

John Irving

**65. Pudd’nhead Wilson**

Mark Twain

**66. The Road**

Cormac McCarthy

**67. Sula**

Toni Morrison

**68. When I Was Puerto Rican:   
A Memoir**

Esmeralda Santiago

**69. The Namesake: A Novel**

Jhumpa Lahiri

**70. The Absolutely True Diary   
of a Part-Time Indian**

Sherman Alexie

**71. All the Pretty Horses**

Cormac McCarthy

**72. Ceremony**

Leslie Marmon Silko

**73. The Five People   
You Meet in Heaven**

Mitch Albom

**74. The Freedom Writers Diary**

Erin Gruwell

**75. Johnny Got His Gun**

Dalton Trumbo

**76. The Light in the Forest**

Conrad Richter

**77. O Pioneers!**

Willa Cather

**78. Out of the Dust**

Karen Hesse

**79. McTeague**

Frank Norris

**80. The Lone Ranger   
and Tonto Fistfight In Heaven**

Sherman Alexie

**81. Dreaming in Cuban**

Cristina Garcia

**82. Before We Were Free**

Julia Alvarez

**83. The Autobiography   
of Malcolm X**

Malcolm X with Alex Haley

**84. The Autobiography   
of Miss Jane Pittman**

Ernest J. Gaines

**85. Caramelo**

Sandra Cisneros

**86. The Dollmaker**

Harriette Anrow

**87. Ellen Foster**

Kaye Gibbons

**88. Fences**

August Wilson

**89. A Gathering of Old Men**

Ernest J. Gaines

**90. The Glass Castle**

Jeanette Walls

**91. Going After Cacciato**

Tim O’Brien

**92. How the Garcia Girls   
Lost Their Accents**

Julia Alvarez

**93. Kindred**

Octavia E. Butler

**94. Little Women**

Louisa May Alcott

**95. A Streetcar Named Desire**

Tennessee Williams

**96. A Yellow Raft in Blue Water**

Michael Dorris

**97. Our Town**

Thornton Wilder

**98. Go Tell It on the Mountain**

James Baldwin

**99. Mule Bone:   
A Comedy of Negro Life**

Langston Hughes & Zora Neale Hurston

**100. If Beale Street Could Talk**

James Baldwin