

Common Core State Standards Grades 11-12 Text Exemplars

The following text samples primarily serve to exemplify the level of complexity and quality that the Standards require all students in a given grade band to engage with. Additionally, they are suggestive of the breadth of texts that students should encounter in the text types required by the Standards. The choices should serve as useful guideposts in helping educators select texts of similar complexity, quality, and range for their own classrooms. They expressly do not represent a partial or complete reading list.

See http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf for more information.

Stories

Chaucer, Geoffrey. [*The Canterbury Tales*](#)
 de Cervantes, Miguel. [*Don Quixote*](#)
 Austen, Jane. [*Pride and Prejudice*](#)
 Poe, Edgar Allan. [*“The Cask of Amontillado”*](#)
 Bronte, Charlotte. [*Jane Eyre*](#)
 Hawthorne, Nathaniel. [*The Scarlet Letter*](#)
 Dostoevsky, Fyodor. [*Crime and Punishment*](#)
 Fitzgerald, F. Scott. [*The Great Gatsby*](#)
 Faulkner, William. [*As I Lay Dying*](#)
 Hemingway, Ernest. [*A Farewell to Arms*](#)
 Hurston, Zora Neale. [*Their Eyes Were Watching God*](#)
 Bellow, Saul. [*The Adventures of Augie March*](#)
 Morrison, Toni. [*The Bluest Eye*](#)
 Garcia, Cristina. [*Dreaming in Cuban*](#)
 Lahiri, Jhumpa. [*The Namesake*](#)

Drama

Shakespeare, William. [*The Tragedy of Hamlet*](#)
 Moliere, Jean-Baptiste Poquelin. [*Tartuffe*](#)
 Wilde, Oscar. [*The Importance of Being Earnest*](#)
 Wilder, Thornton. [*Our Town: A Play in Three Acts*](#)
 Miller, Arthur. [*Death of a Salesman*](#)
 Hansberry, Lorraine. [*A Raisin in the Sun*](#)

Informational Texts: English Language Arts

Paine, Thomas. [*Common Sense*](#)
 Thoreau, Henry David. [*Walden*](#)
 Wright, Richard. [*Black Boy*](#)

Informational Texts: History/Social Studies

Tocqueville, Alexis de. [*Democracy in America*](#)
 McCullough, David. [*1776*](#)

Informational Texts: Science, Mathematics, and Technical Subjects

Paulos, John Allen. [*Innumeracy: Mathematical Illiteracy and Its Consequences*](#)
 Gladwell, Malcolm. [*The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*](#)