

## SUGGESTED READINGS LYCÉE

*Some of these books can be found in your CDI; others can be found at Fahasa or from internet booksellers. Your Literature teacher can help you to choose as well.*

***Pride and Prejudice***, Jane Austen: a romantic novel which follows the character development of the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet.

***The Grapes of Wrath***, John Steinbeck: Set in the US during the Great Depression when many families lost their homes and were forced to move West.

***High Fidelity***, Nick Hornby: A London shop owner contacts his ex-girlfriends and discovers a fear of commitment and tendency to act on impulse.

***Cloud Atlas***, David Mitchell: An epic tale which spans thousands of years, venturing both into the past and into the far, dystopian future.

***Tess of the D'Urbervilles***, Thomas Hardy: Portrays the difficult life of a 19<sup>th</sup> century pure woman, challenging sexual morals of the Victorian period.

***The Corrections***, Jonathan Franzen: Revolves around the trouble of an elderly Midwestern couple and their three adult children, tracing the course of their lives.

***Brave New World***, Aldous Huxley: Dystopian classic which explores the notion of social hierarchy and genetic engineering.

***Jane Eyre***, Charlotte Brontë: 19<sup>th</sup> century novel which follows the life of the heroine Jane through adulthood and her love for Mr. Rochester.

***The Bell Jar***, Sylvia Plath: Semi-autobiographical feminist fiction which follows the life of the heroine and her struggles with mental health in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***The Count of Monte Cristo***, Alexandre Dumas: The original revenge story: a wronged man who escapes from prison.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God***, Zora Neale Hurston: Bildungsroman exploring themes of race, gender roles and femininity.

***One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest***, Ken Kesey: a novel set in a psychiatric hospital which critiques behaviourism and institutional processes.

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***, Stephen Chbosky: Coming of age novel which follows introverted Charlie through his freshman year of highschool

***Wuthering Heights***, Emily Brontë: Victorian novel containing elements of gothic fiction, set in the moorlands in England.

***The Scarlett Letter***, Nathanael Hawthorne: Historical fiction set in Puritan USA which explores themes of legalism, guilt and sin.

***A Thousand Splendid Suns***, Khalid Hosseini: A Mother-Daughter story set in early 1960s Afghanistan which explores themes of gender, suffering and perseverance.

***The Edible Woman***, Margaret Atwood: A young woman whose sane, structured, consumer-oriented world starts to slip out of focus. Following her engagement, Marian feels her body and her self are becoming separated.

***Atonement***, Ian McEwan: Set in three time periods, 1935 England, WWII England and France, and present-day England.

***Birdsong***, Sebastian Faulks: the plot follows two main characters living at different times: WWI, and the 1970's.

***Catch 22***, Joseph Heller: Most of the events in the book occur while the fictional 256th Squadron is based on the island of Pianosa, in the Mediterranean Sea, west of Italy, during WWII.

***The Catcher in the Rye***, J D Salinger: the novel deals with complex issues of innocence, identity, belonging, loss, and connection.

***Dracula***, Bram Stoker: The novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so that he may find new blood and spread the undead curse.

***Frankenstein***, Mary Shelley: the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment.

***Hard Times***, Charles Dickens: The book appraises English society and highlights the social and economic pressures of the times.

***Life of Pi***, Yann Martel: The protagonist, "Pi" Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality.

***The Turn of the Screw***, Henry James: an unnamed narrator listens to Douglas, a friend, read a manuscript written by a former governess whom Douglas claims to have known and who is now dead. Gothic.

***Stoner***, John Edward Williams: Follows William Stoner's undistinguished career and his love and pursuit of literature

***The Woman in White***, Wilkie Collins: Gothic fiction. Considered to be one of the first mystery novels.

***Anna Karenina***, Leo Tolstoy: Classic Russian literature which follows the life and extra-marital affair of the protagonist.

***Mrs Dalloway***, Virginia Woolf: Stream of consciousness novel that details a day in the life of the protagonist in Post WW1 England.

***The Plague***, Alfred Camus: Tells the story of a plague sweeping the French-Algerian city of Oran.

***The Quiet American***, Graham Greene: First person narrative depicting the breakdown of French colonialism in Vietnam and early American involvement in the Vietnam War.

***Wise children***, Angela Carter: The novel follows the fortunes of twin chorus girls, Dora and Nora Chance, and their bizarre theatrical family.

***The Colour Purple***, Alice Walker: focuses on the life of African-American women in the US in the 1930s, addressing issues including their low position in American social culture.

***The Master and Margarita***, Mikhail Bulgakov: Combining supernatural elements with dark satirical comedy, the story concerns a visit by the devil to the Soviet Union.

***The Sorrow of War***, Bảo Ninh: Tells the story of a soldier who is collecting dead bodies after a battle and then begins to think about his past.

***The Accidental***, Ali Smith: An uninvited guest's appearance has a profound effect on a middle-class English family.