

# Reading List for 11th-12th Grade

## Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

The preeminent American slave narrative first published in 1845, Frederick Douglass's Narrative powerfully details the life of the abolitionist from his birth into slavery in 1818 to his escape to the North in 1838, how he endured the daily physical and spiritual brutalities of his owners and driver, how he learned to read and write, and how he grew into a man who could only live free or die. In addition to Douglass's classic autobiography, this new edition also includes his most famous speech "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" and his only known work of fiction, The Heroic Slave, which was written, in part, as a response to Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.

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<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/314336/narrative-of-the-life-of-frederick-douglass-an-american-slave-by-frederick-douglass/9780143107309/>

## The Crucible by Arthur Miller

The Crucible takes place in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. The action begins in the home of Reverend Parris, whose daughter Betty lies unconscious and appears very ill. Around midnight the night before, Parris had discovered Betty, his niece Abigail, and Tituba, his black slave, dancing in the woods, causing Betty to swoon. The local physician is unable to determine the cause of Betty's illness. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam arrive and reveal that their daughter Ruth is also ill. There is talk in the village of an unnatural cause.

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/c/the-crucible/play-summary>

## The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby is a story told by Nick Carraway, who was once Gatsby's neighbor, and he tells the story sometime after 1922, when the incidents that fill the book take place. As the story opens, Nick has just moved from the Midwest to West Egg, Long Island, seeking his fortune as a bond salesman. Shortly after his arrival, Nick travels across the Sound to the more fashionable East Egg to visit his cousin Daisy Buchanan and her husband, Tom, a hulking, imposing man whom Nick had known in college. There he meets professional golfer Jordan Baker. The Buchanans and Jordan Baker live privileged lives, contrasting sharply in sensibility and luxury with Nick's more modest and grounded lifestyle. When Nick returns home that evening, he notices his neighbor, Gatsby, mysteriously standing in the dark and stretching his arms toward the water, and a solitary green light across the Sound.

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<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/g/the-great-gatsby/book-summary>

Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis

The myth which *Till We Have Faces* retells is that of Cupid and Psyche, told most familiarly and at greatest length by Lucius Apuleius. According to Apuleius, there was once a king who had three daughters, all beautiful. Yet the youngest was so superlatively beautiful that men adored her as Venus. At this, the goddess became jealous, and she sent her son Cupid to inflame Psyche with love for the most despicable creature possible. Cupid, however, fell in love with her himself and carried her off from the stake where she had been left as a sacrifice, to be his bride. In the palace to which he took her, however, he came to her only in the dark, forbidding her to see him. Her sisters learned of this, and in their envy they persuaded Psyche to break the taboo of darkness, giving her a lamp to see her lover. When she lit the lamp, though, a drop of oil fell and woke the sleeping Cupid; Psyche was cast out and punished with many labors by Venus, until in the end she was forgiven and reunited with her husband.

<https://www.enotes.com/topics/have-faces-lewis>