Appendix A:
ENGLISH 41 READING LIST

Easy Reading

*Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt—historical fiction about the Civil War

*Anne of Green Gables* or any other books by Lucy Maud Montgomery—story of orphan girl growing up in Canada

*Beauty* or any other books by Robin McKinley—retelling of Beauty and the Beast. (*Outlaws of Sherwood*—retelling of Robin Hood; *Spindle’s End*—retelling of Sleeping Beauty, etc.)

*Calico Captive* and other books by Elizabeth George Speare—historical fiction romance set during the French and Indian war

*Chronicles of Narnia* or any other works by C. S. Lewis—the adventures of four children who travel to a fantasy world and learn many lessons about life

*Cider Days* by Mary Stolz—a young girl’s persistence in getting to know a new neighbor results in friendship

*Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank—true story of young Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis during World War II

*Endless Steepe* by Ester Hautzig—true story of a young Polish girl’s experience as a prisoner in Siberia


*The Giver* by Lois Lowry—story about a boy from a seemingly perfect world, singled out to receive special training from the person who possesses the only memories of the true joys and pain of life

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes—story of an injured silversmith who becomes deeply involved in the American Revolution

*House of Dies Drear* by Virginia Hamilton—mystery about a house that used to be a critical underground stop during the Civil War

*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell—an Indian girl spends eighteen years alone on a rocky island far off the coast of California (based on a true story)

*Leader by Destiny* by Jeanette Eaton—biography of George Washington

*Little Women* or any others by Louisa May Alcott—story of a year in the March family’s life while their father is away fighting in the Civil War

*Little White Horse* and other books by Elizabeth Goudge—a young orphan who arrives at Moonacre Manor to live with her uncle comes closer to understanding the secret of her strange new home

*Mama’s Bank Account* by Kathryn Forbes—story of a Norwegian family’s experience living in San Francisco during the Great Depression

*Mara, Daughter of the Nile* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw—adventures of a slave girl set during the time of the Egyptian pharaohs

*Miracle Worker* by William Gibson—story of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller’s beloved teacher
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George—a young boy survives alone in the Catskill Mountains of Upstate New York

National Velvet by Enid Bagnold—an English girl wins a horse, trains it, and rides it in the Grand National Steeplechase

Of Courage Undaunted by James Daugherty—story of Lewis and Clark’s adventure to the West

Onion John by Joseph Krumgold—story of a friendship between a 12-year-old boy and an immigrant handyman that is almost wrecked by the good intentions of the townspeople

Prydian Chronicles by Lloyd Alexander—five fantasy/adventure novels based on a Welsh legend

Treasures of the Snow and others by Patricia St. John—story of a girl who wishes to avenge her brother’s injuries

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Douglas Wiggin—classic story about the adventures of a girl from Maine

With Lee in Virginia or any other books by G. A. Henty—historical fiction action novel about the Civil Wars

Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars—story about the day a 14-year-old’s beloved mentally handicapped brother is lost

Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly—historical fiction story set in Poland about a young patriot and a mysterious jewel of great value

Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss—classic tale of an industrious family that survives a shipwreck and builds their life on a beautiful island

White Fang by Jack London—a wolf-dog endures great cruelty before he comes to know human kindness

Wolves of Willoughby Chase and others by Joan Aiken—two girls are left in the care of a cruel governor and must figure out how to reclaim Willoughby Chase

A Wrinkle in Time and others by Madeleine L’Engle—story of a young girl and her brother’s quest through space to find their father

Grade Level Reading

Admiral of the Ocean Sea: Life of Christopher Columbus and other historically accurate books by Samuel E. Morison—biography of Columbus

The Alliance and any others by Gerald Lund—science fiction story of a young man’s dilemmas in a controlling society

Anna and the King of Siam by Margaret Landon—an English woman becomes a governess to the children of the King of Siam in the 1860s

Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest Gaines—novel about the treatments of African-Americans spanning a range of 100 years

Before the Blood Tribunal by Rudolf Gustav Wobbe—true story of three German teenagers who dared speak out against the Nazis by typing up leaflets and distributing them

Bulfinch’s Age of Chivalry by Thomas Bulfinch—stories of King Arthur

Bulfinch’s Age of Fable by Thomas Bulfinch—classic Greek and Roman mythology

Bulfinch’s Legends of Charlemagne by Thomas Bulfinch—tales from the Middle Ages

Call of the Canyon and other books by Zane Gray—western novel about a young woman who leaves the high society of New York

Chase Me, Catch Nobody by Erik Christian Haugaard—Danish schoolboy becomes involved in anti-Nazi underground movement

The Chosen and others by Chaim Potok—story about two Jewish boys and their friendship

Christy by Catherine Marshall—a young woman leaves her home to teach the people of the Smokey Mountains

The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael by Ellis Peters—mystery/historical romances that chronicle a twelfth-century Benedictine monk and sleuth

Circuit Rider and others by Edward Eggleston—story about the circuit riders in the early 1800s Ohio “wilderness”

Cloister and the Hearth by Charles Reade—historical novel that recreates life in fifteenth-century Europe

Conquering Family and other historical fiction by Thomas B. Costain—novel that chronicles English monarchs Henry II and his sons Richard I “the Lionhearted” and John

Day of Pleasure by Isaac Bashevis Singer—collection of nineteen episodes from the author’s boyhood life in Warsaw, Poland

Duel in the Wilderness by Karin Clafford Farley—true story of George Washington’s journey into Ohio in 1753–1754

Flames of Rome by Paul Maier—Nero’s rise to power as emperor of Rome, and the events leading to the burning of Rome
Good Morning, Miss Dove by Frances Gray Patton—a dedicated teacher instills values in her students

Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hiltto—an English schoolmaster, Mr. Chipping, shapes the lives of many boys and becomes a Brookfield legend

Guns of Navarone by Alistair MacClean—World War II story of a small group of commandos who sneak onto a German-held Greek island to destroy a gun battery which guards a strategic strait

The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day by Scott O’Dell—historical fiction set in England during the sixteenth century, dealing with William Tyndale’s quest to put a Bible in commoners’ hands

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom—true story about Corrie ten Boom, a leader in the Dutch Underground during WWII, who hid many Jews from the Nazi invaders

The Hobbit and others by J. R. R. Tolkien—the adventures of Bilbo Baggins (prelude to the Lord of the Rings trilogy)

Hound of the Baskervilles and others by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are faced with one of their most difficult cases on the Baskerville estate as they try to solve the murder of Sir Charles

How Green Was My Valley by Richard Llewellyn—story of a young man’s coming-of-age in a small Welsh mining town

In His Steps by Charles Sheldon—story of a church’s pledge to consider “What Would Jesus Do?” before every decision and action

In the Hall of the Dragon King and others in the trilogy by Stephen R. Lawhead—fantasy novels about the adventures of Quentin

Julius Caesar and other biographies by John Buchan

Life of David Crockett by David Crockett—autobiography of Davy Crockett

Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain—autobiographical account of Mark Twain’s early steamboat days

Likely Lad by Gillian Avery—a young English boy runs away from home and embarks on an adventure that leads him to understand and come to terms with his father

Lion’s Paw by D. R. Sherman—a young African boy frees a lion from a trap and must face the difficulties of loving and losing a wild thing

Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien (trilogy of fantasy novels: The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, and The Return of the King)—the saga of a group of individuals who set forth to save their world from consummate evil

Max’s Dream by William Mayne—a crippled boy is chosen to be king of the midsummer celebration and his friends help him follow a dream to find his queen

Moonstone and other books by Wilkie Collins—mystery of a stolen Moonstone diamond told from three separate points of view

Mrs. Mike by Benedict and Nancy Freedman—love story of a young Irish girl who moves to the northernmost reaches of Canada and endures the hardships of a remote life

No Promises in the Wind by Irene Hunt—a fifteen-year-old boy’s struggle during the Great Depression

Odyssey of Homer by Barbara Leonie Picard—an easier version of Homer’s Odyssey that tells the adventures of King Odysseus

The Other Side of Heaven by John H. Groberg—true story of a missionary’s experiences in the Tongan Islands

Portable Chaucer by Theodore Morrison—Morrison’s translation of The Canterbury Tales, Troilus and Cressida and other Middle English originals

Profiles in Courage by John F. Kennedy—John F. Kennedy chooses eight of his historical heroes (John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, etc.) to profile their acts of integrity in the face of overwhelming opposition

Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane—classic novel of a young Union volunteer during the American Civil War

The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas—Easter classic about the man who gambled for Christ’s robe and won

Sarah Bishop by Scott O’Dell—tale of a girl’s strength and courage during the American Revolution

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy—story of a British man who works undercover to rescue condemned innocents out of France during the Reign of Terror

Scottish Chiefs by Jane Porter—historical fiction novel that recounts the adventures of Scotland’s fourteenth-century heroes, Sir William Wallace and Robert the Bruce

Second Mrs. Giacomo by E. L. Konigsburg—story centered around Leonardo Da Vinci’s mysterious painting of the Mona Lisa
Small Woman by Alan Burgess—story of a woman’s missionary service in the mountain villages of North China

Streams to the River, River to the Sea by Scott O’Dell—story of Sacagawea

String in the Harp by Nancy Bond—fantasy novel about three children’s adventures in Wales with a magical key

Time Enough for Drums by Anne Rinaldi—historical fiction account of a young girl and her family’s struggle for freedom during the Revolutionary War

Time Machine and others by H. G. Wells—science fiction account of a time traveler who travels thousands of years into the future to discover what will happen to the human race

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee—Pulitzer-prize-winning novel that deals with racial injustice in a small Southern town

Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Henry Dana—true account of the author’s ocean adventures from Boston, around Cape Horn, and out to the California Coast in the early nineteenth century

Twelfth Angel and others by Og Mandino—after John Harding’s wife and only child die in a car accident, he finds solace in coaching a stubborn young Little Leaguer dying of a brain tumor

Treasure Island and others by Robert Louis Stevenson—a young boy finds a treasure map which sends him on many wild adventures

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington—story of a young African American who works to make his dreams come true

Virginian and others by Owen Wister Still—western tale of a man’s journey into untamed Wyoming territory

Watership Down by Richard Adams—classic tale of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place where they can live in peace

Well at the World’s End and others by William Morris—fantasy novel about a prince who devotes his life to the quest of a well that promises the discoverer perpetual youth

The Yearling by Marjorie Rawlings—classic tale of the tender relationship of a young boy and his tame fawn in the backwoods of Florida

Challenging Reading

Ben Hur and others by Lew Wallace—story of a Jewish nobleman who fell from Roman favor and was sentenced to life as a slave—all at the hands of his childhood friend

Giants in the Earth and others by O. E. Rolvaag—pioneer story of Norwegian immigrants and their struggle in America’s Dakota territory

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck—story of a peasant family living in China during the 1920s

Great Expectations and others by Charles Dickens—story of a poor village boy and his expectations of wealth

Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift—four fantastic voyages of Lemuel Gulliver

Ivanhoe and others by Sir Walter Scott—historical fiction that takes place in Medieval England during the reign of Richard-the-Lion-Hearted

Jane Eyre or any others by Charlotte Bronte—story of the doomed love affair between a governess and her employer

King Solomon’s Mines and others by Henry Rider Haggard—an elephant hunter’s account of his safari into South Africa to find a diamond mine

Les Miserables and others by Victor Hugo—an ex-convict dedicates his life to good and is pursued by a police agent

Lost Queen of Egypt by Lucile Morrison—historical fiction about the life of Queen Ankhsenpaaten of Egypt

Miracle at Philadelphia by Catherine Bowen—story of what eventually became the Constitutional Convention

Mythology by Edith Hamilton—collection of Greek and Roman myths arranged in sections on the gods and early heroes, love and adventure stories, the Trojan war, and a brief section on Norse mythology

O! Pioneers or any other books by Willa Cather—classic American story of pioneer life in the prairies of Nebraska

Oregon Trail by Francis Parkman—account of Francis Parkman’s journey west across North America in 1846

Pilgrim’s Progress and others by John Bunyan—story of Christian, the Pilgrim, and his quest to reach the Celestial City

Pride and Prejudice or any others by Jane Austen—a comedy of manners telling of the courtship of a very headstrong couple

Silas Marner and others by George Eliot—story of a weaver who has been treated wrongly by townsfolk and retreats from the world, until he meets a child who changes his heart
The *Three Musketeers* and others by Alexandre Dumas—historical novel about a young nobleman’s quest to join the Musketeers (a group of adventurers who serve King Louis XIII)

*Quo Vadis* by Henryk Sienkiewicz—historical novel set in ancient Rome, the love story of a Roman officer who falls in love with a Christian woman

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte—love story about the stubborn Catherine and the wild Heathcliff