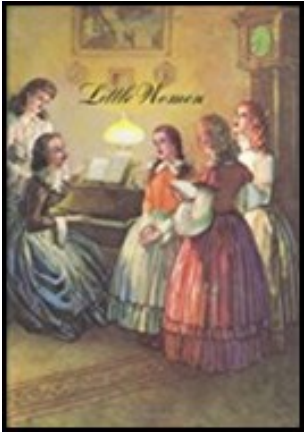
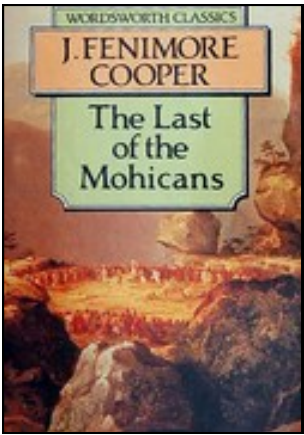


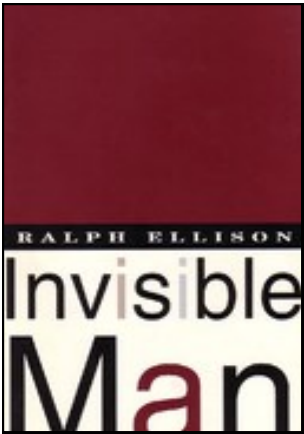
Westhampton Free Library 2018 March BOOK Madness—American Classics Bracket



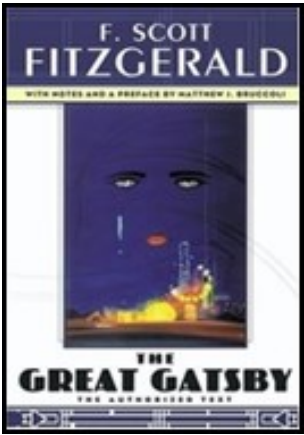
[Little Women by Louisa May Alcott](#) - The novel follows the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March—detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters.



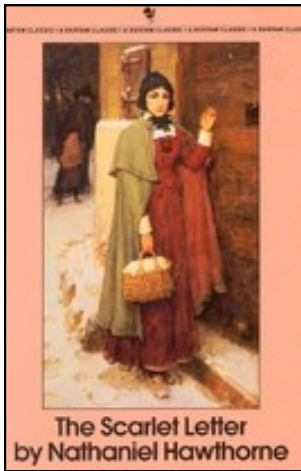
[The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper](#) - Cooper's famous adventure brings the wilds of the American frontier and the drama of the French-Indian war to vivid life. Featuring the classic character Natty Bumppo, it is a moving, memorable depiction of courage, passion, and forbearance, and a precursor to the Western genre.



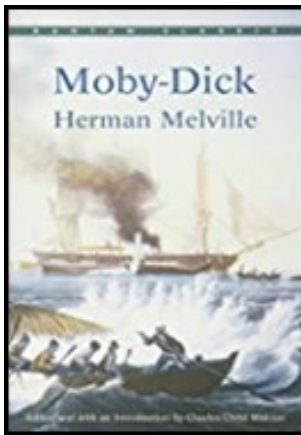
[Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison](#) - *Invisible Man*'s nameless narrator describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.



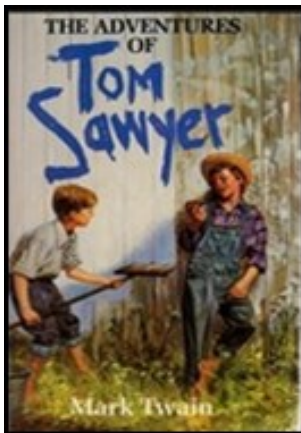
[The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald](#) - The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when *The New York Times* noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.



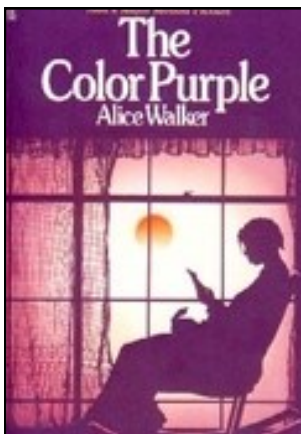
[\*The Scarlet Letter\* by Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) - Hailed by Henry James as "the finest piece of imaginative writing yet put forth in the country," *The Scarlet Letter* reaches to our nation's historical and moral roots for the material of great tragedy. Set in an early New England colony, the novel shows the terrible impact a single, passionate act has on the lives of three members of the community: the defiant Hester Prynne; the fiery, tortured Reverend Dimmesdale; and the obsessed, vengeful Chillingworth.



[\*Moby-Dick\* by Herman Melville](#) - Ishmael narrates the monomaniacal quest of Ahab, captain of the whaler *Pequod*, for revenge on the albino sperm whale Moby Dick, which on a previous voyage destroyed Ahab's ship and severed his leg at the knee.

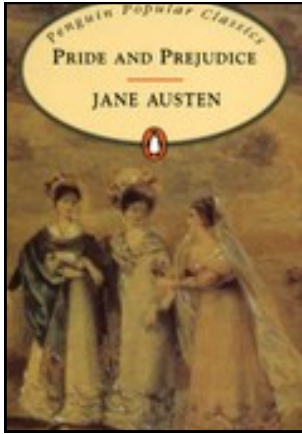


[\*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer\* by Mark Twain](#) - With the Mississippi River right at his back door and friends who are willing to try anything, Tom Sawyer can't seem to resist a good adventure! From finding a treasure of gold coins, to whitewashing a fence, to escaping the evil Injun Joe, Tom is always off on a thrilling escapade.

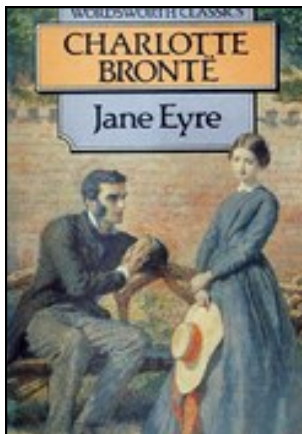


[\*The Color Purple\* by Alice Walker](#) - *The Color Purple* is the story of two sisters—one a missionary to Africa and the other a child wife living in the South—who remain loyal to one another across time, distance, and silence. Beautifully imagined and deeply compassionate, this classic of American literature is rich with passion, pain, inspiration, and an indomitable love of life.

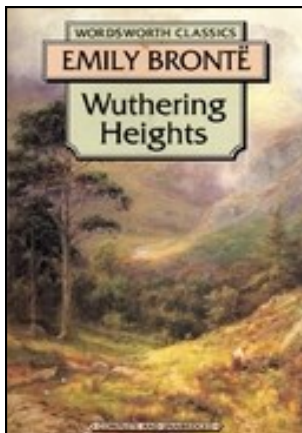
## Westhampton Free Library 2018 March BOOK Madness—British Classics Bracket



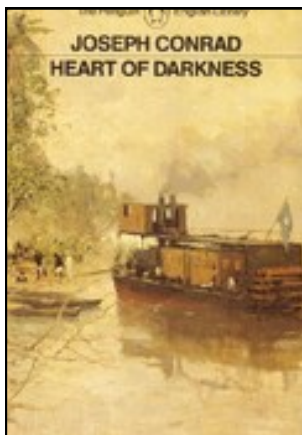
[\*Pride and Prejudice\* by Jane Austen](#) - Austen's most celebrated novel tells the story of Elizabeth Bennet, a bright, lively young woman with four sisters, and a mother determined to marry them to wealthy men. At a party near the Bennets' home in the English countryside, Elizabeth meets the wealthy, proud Fitzwilliam Darcy. Elizabeth initially finds Darcy haughty and intolerable, but circumstances continue to unite the pair. Mr. Darcy finds himself captivated by Elizabeth's wit and candor, while her reservations about his character slowly vanish. The story is as much a social critique as it is a love story, and the prose crackles with Austen's wry wit.



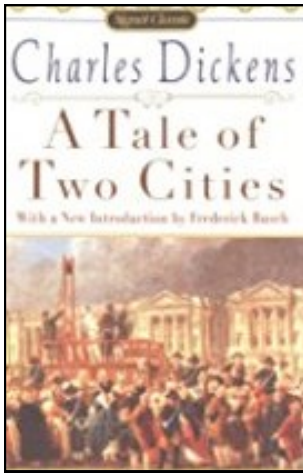
[\*Jane Eyre\* by Charlotte Brontë](#) - Having grown up an orphan in the home of her cruel aunt and at a harsh charity school, Jane Eyre becomes an independent and spirited survivor—qualities that serve her well as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice. Should she stay with him whatever the consequences or follow her convictions, even if it means leaving her beloved?



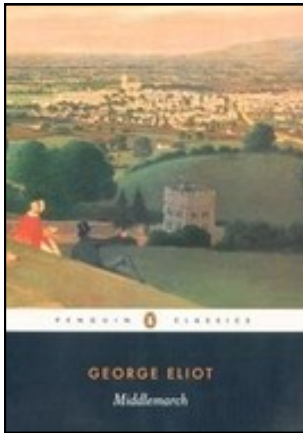
[\*Wuthering Heights\* by Emily Brontë](#) - "My greatest thought in living is Heathcliff. If all else perished, and he remained, I should still continue to be... Nelly, I *am* Heathcliff! He's always, always in my mind: not as a pleasure... but as my own being." A brooding Yorkshire tale of a love that is stronger than death, it is also a fierce vision of metaphysical passion, in which heaven and hell, nature and society, are powerfully juxtaposed. Unique, mystical, with a timeless appeal, it has become a classic of English literature.



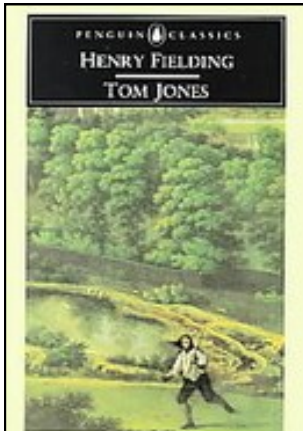
[\*Heart of Darkness\* by Joseph Conrad](#) - Framed by the story of Charles Marlow's experience as an ivory transporter down the Congo River in Central Africa, the story is a complex exploration of the attitudes people hold on what constitutes a barbarian versus a civilized society and the attitudes on colonialism and racism that were part and parcel of European imperialism.



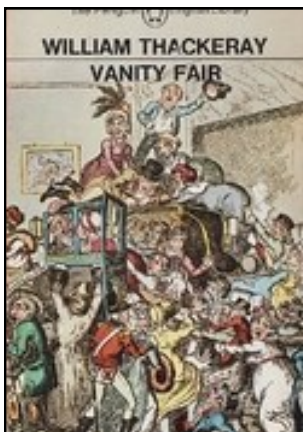
[\*A Tale of Two Cities\* by Charles Dickens](#) - After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the aging Dr. Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There, two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil lanes of London, they are all drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror and soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine.



[\*Middlemarch\* by George Eliot](#) - Set during the early part of the 19th century, this is a work of epic scope that centers on the intersecting lives of the inhabitants of the fictitious titular town of Middlemarch. Through the narrative of the story the author addresses the status of women, the nature of marriage, politics, religion, and education in the 19th century.

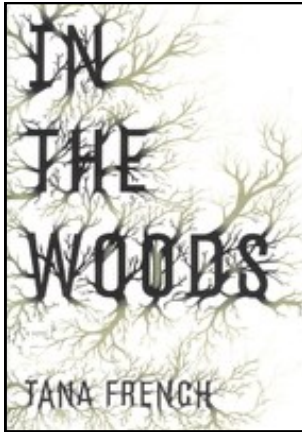


[\*The History of Tom Jones, A Foundling\* by Henry Fielding](#) - A foundling of mysterious parentage brought up by Mr. Allworthy on his country estate, Tom Jones is deeply in love with the seemingly unattainable Sophia Western, the beautiful daughter of the neighboring squire—though he sometimes succumbs to the charms of the local girls. When Tom is banished to make his own fortune and Sophia follows him to London to escape an arranged marriage, the adventure begins.



[\*Vanity Fair\* by William Makepeace Thackeray](#) - No one is better equipped in the struggle for wealth and worldly success than the alluring and ruthless Becky Sharp, who defies her impoverished background to clamber up the class ladder. Her sentimental companion Amelia, however, longs only for caddish soldier George. As they make their way through the tawdry glamour of Regency society, battles—military and domestic—are fought, fortunes made and lost. The one steadfast and honorable figure in this corrupt world is Dobbin with his devotion to Amelia, bringing pathos and depth to Thackeray's gloriously satirical epic of love and social adventure.

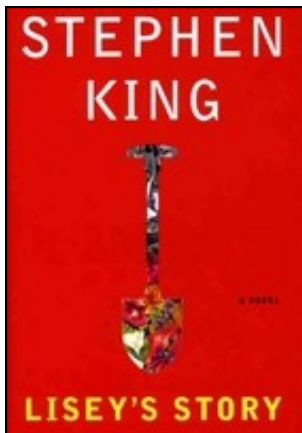
## Westhampton Free Library 2018 March BOOK Madness—Thriller Bracket



[\*In the Woods\* by Tana French](#) - As dusk approaches in the summer of 1984, mothers begin to call their children home. But on this warm evening, three children do not return from the dark and silent woods. When the police arrive, they find only one child, gripping a tree trunk in terror, wearing blood-filled sneakers, and unable to recall a single detail of the previous hours. Twenty years later, the found boy, Rob Ryan, is a detective on the Dublin Murder Squad and keeps his past a secret. But when a twelve-year-old girl is found murdered in the same woods, he finds himself investigating a case chillingly similar to the previous unsolved mystery.



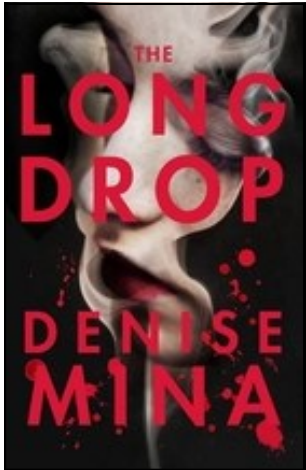
[\*The Silence of the Lambs\* by Thomas Harris](#) - Clarice Starling, a precociously self-disciplined FBI trainee, is dispatched to see whether she can learn anything useful from Dr. Hannibal Lecter. Lecter is a gifted psychopath whose nickname is "The Cannibal" because he likes to eat parts of his victims. Isolated by his crimes from all physical contact with the human race, he plays an enigmatic game of "Clue" with Starling, providing her with snippets of data that, if she is smart enough, will lead her to the criminal. Undaunted, she goes where the data takes her. If she can understand Lecter's final, ambiguous scrawl, she can find the killer. But can she figure it out in time?



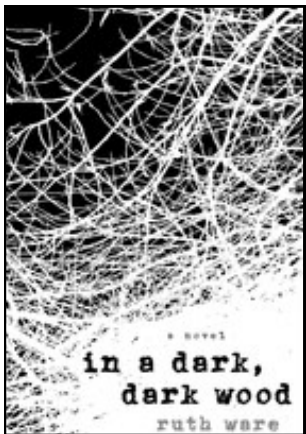
[\*Lisey's Story\* by Stephen King](#) - Lisey lost her husband Scott after a twenty-five-year marriage of profound and sometimes frightening intimacy. Scott was an award-winning, bestselling novelist and a very complicated man. Even before they married, Lisey knew there was a place Scott visited—a place that both terrified and healed him, could eat him alive or give him the ideas he needed in order to live and create. Now, two years after Scott's death, it's Lisey's turn to face his demons, to go to that terrifying place. What begins as a widow's effort to sort through the vast papers of her celebrated husband becomes a nearly fatal journey into the darkness he inhabited.



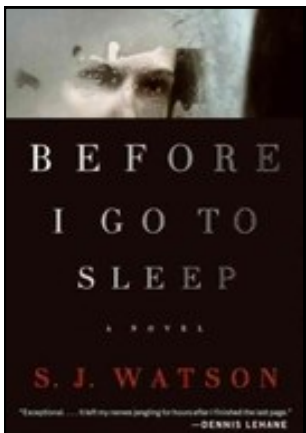
[\*Alex\* by Pierre Lemaitre](#) - Alex Prevost is beautiful, resourceful, and tough, and may be no ordinary victim, but her time is running out. Commandant Camille Verhoeven and his detectives have nothing to go on: no suspect, no leads, rapidly diminishing hope. All they know is that a girl was snatched off the streets of Paris and bundled into a white van. The enigma that is the fate of Alex will keep Verhoeven guessing until the bitter, bitter end. And before long, saving her life will be the least of his worries.



[\*The Long Drop\* by Denise Mina](#) - The "trial of the century" in 1950s Glasgow is over. Peter Manuel has been found guilty of a string of murders and is waiting to die by hanging. But every good crime story has a beginning and Manuel's starts with the murder of William Watt's family. Looking no further than Watt himself, the police are convinced he's guilty. Desperate to clear his name, Watt turns to Manuel, a career criminal who claims to have information that will finger the real killer. As Watt seeks justice with the cagey Manuel's help, everyone the pair meets has blood on their hands as they sell their version of the truth.



[\*In a Dark, Dark Wood\* by Ruth Ware](#) - Leonora is a reclusive crime writer, unwilling to leave her nest of an apartment unless it is absolutely necessary. When a friend she hasn't seen or spoken to in years unexpectedly invites her to a weekend away in an eerie glass house deep in the English countryside, she reluctantly agrees to make the trip. Forty-eight hours later, she wakes up in a hospital bed injured but alive, with the knowledge that someone is dead. Wondering not "what happened?" but "what have I done?" Nora tries to piece together the events of the past weekend.

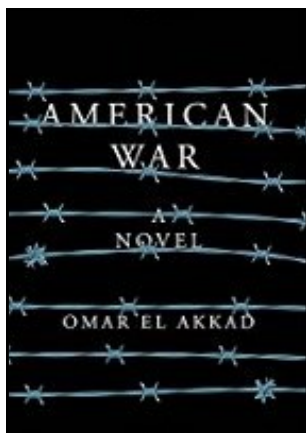


[\*Before I Go To Sleep\* by S.J. Watson](#) - Every day Christine wakes up not knowing where she is. Her memories disappear every time she falls asleep. Her husband, Ben, is a stranger to her, and he has to explain their life together on a daily basis — all the result of a mysterious accident that made Christine an amnesiac. With the encouragement of her doctor, Christine starts a journal to help jog her memory every day. But one morning, she opens it to see that she's written three unexpected and terrifying words: "Don't trust Ben." Suddenly everything her husband has told her falls under suspicion. What kind of accident caused her condition? Who can she trust? Why is Ben lying to her?

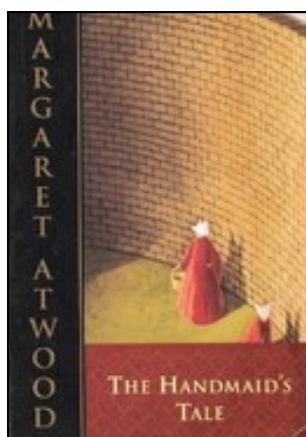


[\*Six Four\* by Hideo Yokoyama](#) - For five days, the parents of a seven-year-old Tokyo schoolgirl sat and listened to the demands of their daughter's kidnapper whose identity they would never learn. Fourteen years later, the mystery remains unsolved. The police department's press officer, a former detective who was involved in the original case and who is now himself the father of a missing daughter, is forced to revisit the botched investigation. He has worked in the department for his entire career, and while he has his own ambitions and loyalties, he is hoping simply to reach out to the victim's family and to help finally put the notorious case to rest. But when he spots an anomaly in the files, he uncovers secrets he never could have imagined. He would never have even looked if he'd known what he would find.

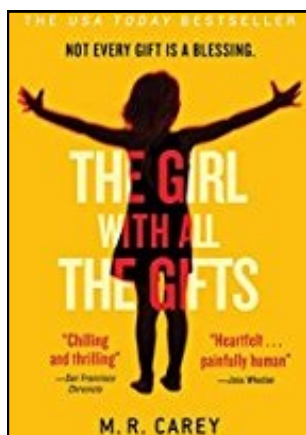
## Westhampton Free Library 2018 March BOOK Madness—Dystopian Bracket



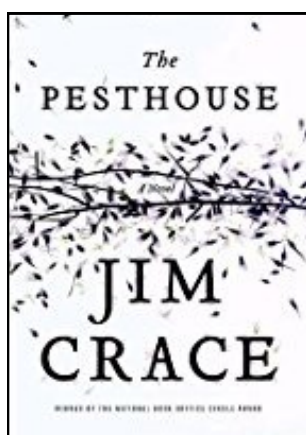
[American War by Omar El Akkad](#) - Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky. When her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she begins to grow up shaped by her particular time and place. Eventually Sarat is befriended by a mysterious functionary, under whose influence she is turned into a deadly instrument of war. The decisions she makes will have tremendous consequences not just for Sarat but for her family and her country, rippling through generations of strangers and kin alike.



[The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood](#) - Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred is only valued because her ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the days before, when she lived and made love with her husband Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now....



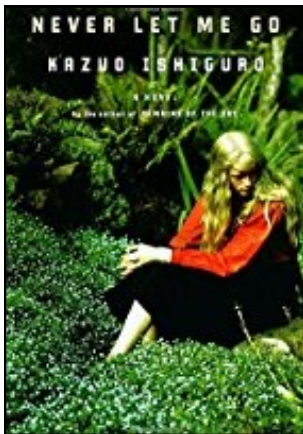
[The Girl with All the Gifts by M.R. Carey](#) - Not every gift is a blessing. Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant Parks keeps his gun pointing at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite. But they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl. Emotionally charged and gripping from beginning to end, The girl with all the gifts is the most powerful and affecting thriller you will read this year.



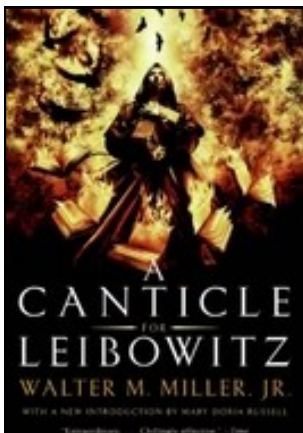
[The Pesthouse by Jim Crace](#) - The United States is now a lawless, scantily populated wasteland. The machines have stopped. The government has collapsed. Farmlands lie fallow and the soil is contaminated by toxins. Franklin Lopez comes upon an isolated stone building. Inside he finds Margaret, a woman with a deadly infection and confined to the Pesthouse to sweat out her fever. Tentatively, the two join forces and make their way through the ruins of old America. Confronted by bandits rounding up men for slavery, finding refuge in the Ark, a religious community that makes bizarre demands on those they shelter, Franklin and Margaret find their wariness of each other replaced by deep trust and an intimacy neither one has ever experienced before.



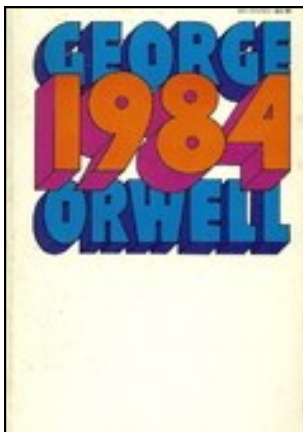
[Brave New World by Aldous Huxley](#) - "Community, Identity, Stability" is the motto of Huxley's utopian World State. Here everyone consumes daily grams of soma to fight depression, babies are born in laboratories, and the most popular form of entertainment is a "Feelie," a movie that stimulates the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. Though there is no violence and everyone is provided for, Bernard Marx feels something is missing and senses his relationship with a young woman has the potential to be much more than the confines of their existence allow. Huxley foreshadowed many of the practices and gadgets we take for granted today--let's hope the sterility and absence of individuality he predicted aren't yet to come.



[Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro](#) - All children should believe they are special. But the students of Hailsham, an elite school in the English countryside, are so special that visitors shun them, and only by rumor and the occasional fleeting remark by a teacher do they discover their unconventional origins and strange destiny. Like the students of Hailsham, readers are "told but not told" what is going on and should be allowed to discover the secrets of Hailsham and the truth about these children on their own.



[A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller, Jr.](#) - The story opens with the accidental excavation of a holy artifact: a creased, brittle memo scrawled by the hand of the blessed Saint Leibowitz, that reads: "Pound pastrami, can kraut, six bagels--bring home for Emma." To the Brothers of Saint Leibowitz, this sacred shopping list penned by an obscure, 20th-century engineer is a symbol of hope from the distant past, from before the Simplification, the fiery atomic holocaust that plunged the earth into darkness and ignorance. Following a cloister of monks over several hundred years, the funny but bleak *Canticle* tackles the sociological and religious implications of the cyclical rise and fall of civilization, questioning whether humanity can hope for more than repeating its own history .



[1984 by George Orwell](#) - Published in 1949, the book offers political satirist George Orwell's nightmare vision of a totalitarian, bureaucratic world and one poor stiff's attempt to find individuality. The brilliance of the novel is Orwell's prescience of modern life--the ubiquity of television, the distortion of the language--and his ability to construct such a thorough version of hell. Required reading for students since it was published, it ranks among the most terrifying novels ever written.