

## Reading List E Challenges and Choices

For your own book report, pick a **novel** from the list and report the title before the autumn break. Hand in a book report after the Xmas holidays. You may be asked to present it in class and/or to discuss it in the oral exam in summer 2015. If you want to choose a book outside this list, you will want to explain why exactly.

Moreover, you should be prepared to lend it to your teacher for a browse.

The titles in **bold print** are recommended for students who prefer simple language. These titles are relatively short.

(3) is supposed to mean 'demanding', (1) a relatively easy read. Comments on 'tone' are subjective.

Tip: Reviews on the internet will help.

The better a book is known, e.g. Gulliver's Travel, Robinson Crusoe, Huck Finn, or Gone With the Wind, the harder it is to say something that not thousands of others have said. Your comments should show that you have actually read the book and thought about it a bit yourself.

Author	Title	genre	123	subject	tone
Adiga, Aravind	The White Tiger	novel	1	adventurous boy makes it in modern Indian	satire exposing reality
Angelou, Maya	Mom & Me & Mom	novel autobio.	2	the writer looks back at her formidable mother and a turbulent upbringing	emancipation, an insider's view
Atwood, Margaret	The Handmaid's Tale	novel, dystopia	3	totalitarian Christian fundamentalists run the States	demanding but rewarding
Austen, Jane	Pride and Prejudice	novel	3	courtship, love and marriage from middle-class women's point of view	acutely observant, hilarious
Beecher Stowe, H.	Uncle Tom's Cabin	novel	2	stating the 1850s abolitionist case in the 1850s	critical reading required
Boyle, TC	The Tortilla Curtain	novel	2	immigrants and US citizens side by side and yet worlds apart	realistic, satirical
Capote, Truman	In Cold Blood	factual fiction	1	gruesome murder, life in rural America	novelist's crime story
Desai, Anita	Feasting, Fasting	novel	2	married life, its bliss and its misery, an Indian woman's view	realistic, sad
Fitzgerald, Scott	The Great Gatsby	novel	3	the American Dream in NY's 20s	great literature
Gains, Ernest	A Gathering of Old Men	novel	1	simple folks resist racist lynching in the 30's South	simple and powerful
Garland, Alex	The Beach	novel	1	backpacker looks for tropical paradise and discovers hell	adventure story
Hai, Yasmin	The Making of Mr Hai's daughter	novel autobio	1	Pakistani girl grows up in London, East and West contrasting	excellent insight
Heller, Joseph	Catch 22	novel	1	the absurdity of war	hilarious
Huxley, Aldous	Brave New World	novel, dystopia	2	happiness is everyone's duty	intellectually witty
Kerouac, Jack	On the Road	novel autobio	1	NY to San-Fran and back, 50s' beatniks drugs, crime, jazz	a breathless, realistic classic
McCourt, Frank	Teacher Man	novel autobio.	2	what teaching youngsters in inner city NY means	realistic but comforting
Mitchell, Margaret	Gone with the Wind	novel	2	love story, Southern lifestyle and racism glorified	very critical reading required
Mohsin, Hamid	The Reluctant Fundamentalist	novel	1	successful Pakistani in US experiences alienation after 09/11	how "they" see "us"
Morrison, Toni	Beloved	novel	3	poetic but poignant take on (post-) slavery's trauma	celebrated work, hard
Orwell, George	1984	novel dystopia	2	gloomy satire on totalitarianism and total surveillance	grim, realistic
Plath, Sylvia	The Bell Jar	autobiography	3	a promising young woman's breakdown in US oppressive 50s	lucid, harsh
Swarup, Vikas	Q & A	novel	1	gripping adventure story, from the gutter to the top in India	The film (!) is based (!!) on it (!!!)
Twain, Mark	Huckleberry Finn	novel	3	an outcast's adventures in 1880's American South	critical reading required
Updike, John	Rabbitbit [...]	novel(s)	3	several novels about an American Everyman's family saga in post-war US	racy, insight, takes you back
Vonnegut, Kurt	Slaughterhouse Five	novel autobio.	1	a US POW survives the Dresden bombing, post-traumatic 50s	horrendous but darkly comical
Walls, Jeannette	The Glass Castle	autobio	2	most unconventional childhood and success in later life as a writer	Lily's daughter & grandchildren
Wolfe, Tom	Bonfire of the Vanities	factual fiction	3	American Dream/nightmare in NY's banking world in the 80s	instructive satire

Seriöse Buchbesprechungen:

The Guardian Book Review – eine reiche Auswahl anspruchsvoller Rezensionen

Hier geben nicht nur die Beiträge selbst, sondern auch die Zuschriften der Leserschaft Beispiele für wertende Stellungnahmen.

Anspruchsvolles zu Aktuellem auch bei NYT

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/books+tone/reviews>

<http://www.economist.com/culture>

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/review/index.html>