

Supplemental Reading List for English 209

NB: This is a very idiosyncratic list. It is made of the books I know and like the best -- books I have taught in this or other courses and books whose themes I know dovetail nicely with our assigned readings. This list is by no means exclusive; you can read things not on the list -- I just won't be able to help as much. Other books by any of the authors are also okay, just not guaranteed that I've read them. You may read a play, or a novel, or a collection of poems, or even (as in the case of Annie Dillard) a book of literary essays.

@Means it's in our anthology.

- Allison, Dorothy.** **BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA** (1995) *Young girl growing up in Greenville in white trash family.*
- Angelou, Maya.** **I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS**. *Story of the first years of a young black girl's life.*
- Atwood, Margaret.** **SURFACING**. *Story of a Canadian woman who goes to the woods in search of her father and winds up finding herself; heavily feminist—into nature.*
- Barth, John.** **END OF THE ROAD**. (1958). *Dark-humored tale of a man who can't make any decisions.*
- Beckett, Samuel.** **WAITING FOR GODOT**. (1954). *Classic drama of the theater of the absurd. About two vaudevillesque tramps who pass the time waiting for something to happen (movie available).*
- Brown, Rita Mae.** **RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE** **Classic lesbian coming out story**
- Burgess, Anthony.** **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**. (1963). *Near future account of how a young juvenile delinquent is conditioned and reconditioned by a prison system and a violent society. (Movie available)*
- Dick, Philip K.** **BLADE RUNNER/ DO ANDROIDS DREAM OF ELECTRIC SHEEP?**. *Science fiction novel about detective in search of outlawed androids, learning the significance of empathy. (movie available.)*
- Dickey, James.** **DELIVERANCE**. (1970). *Adventure story of men on a white-water trip, encountering the American wilderness. (Movie available)*
- Dillard, Annie.** **PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK** *Brilliant collection of essays about life and nature*
- Ellison, Ralph.** **INVISIBLE MAN**. (1947). *Story of a black man's struggles to find/create a place for himself in society.*
- Fowles, John.** **THE MAGUS**. (1965/1978). *Long, involved tale of how a young Englishman on a Greek island matures after being exposed to a series of mysterious psychodramas staged by a rich eccentric.*
- Irving, John.** **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP**. (1976). *Wacky melodrama about wrestler/writer and his family. (Movie available)*
- Heller, Joseph.** **CATCH-22**. *Crazy story of bomber pilots and insanity of the army in WWII. (movie available)*
- Kosinski, Jerzy.** **BEING THERE**. *How an illiterate gardener winds up being considered a candidate for the presidency. (movie available)*
- McCullers, Carson,** **THE BALLAD OF THE SAD CAFE** *Strange triangle between a powerful woman, her husband, and the dwarf she loves. (Movie available)*
- @Miller, Arthur.** **DEATH OF A SALESMAN**. *Classic play about the later years of a*

- failing travelling salesman.*
- Morrison, Toni.** **THE BLUEST EYE** *Story of a young girl's gradual destruction by the neglect of her family and culture. (Any Morrison Novel okay)*
- O'Connor, Flannery.** **THE VIOLENT BEAR IT AWAY, WISE BLOOD.** *Two novels about the fortunes of a strange, slightly crazy southern boy and his bizarre religious perspective.*
- Orwell, George.** **1984.** *Classic story of totalitarian dystopia ruled by Big Brother.*
- Piercy, Marge.** **WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME.** *A sort of female version of Cuckoo's Nest; novel about Chicana who is unjustly? put in a mental institution and starts getting visits from a mysterious stranger living on a utopian future society. Compares to Brave New World. (Any Piercy novel okay)*
- Plath, Sylvia.** **THE BELL JAR.** (1971). *Autobiographical novel by young, talented poetess who later committed suicide.*
- Robbins, Tim.** **ANOTHER ROADSIDE ATTRACTION.** (1971). *Bananas book about what happens when the dead body of Christ is brought to a vegetarian hot dog stand run by a bunch of hippies in Washington State.*
- Styron, William.** **SOPHIE'S CHOICE.** *Story of what happened to vibrant Polish woman during WWII and of her subsequent life with a violent paranoid, told through the eyes of a young southern writer. (movie available)*
- Vonnegut, Kurt.** **SIRENS OF TITAN.** *Burlesque of star wars type space opera complete with Martian invasion.*
- . **CAT'S CRADLE.** *Story of destruction of world through new scientific invention; also involves creation of a new religion.*
- Walker, Alice.** **THE COLOR PURPLE.** (1982) *Pulitzer prize winning story of Black woman creating a life for herself*
- White, T.H.** **THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING.** *Modernistic, ironic (and funny) re-telling of the King Arthur story.*
- @**Williams, Tennessee.** **THE GLASS MENAGERIE.** *Famous play about a young girl and her "gentleman caller." (movies available)
(wonderful movie version available with Marlon Brando.)*
- **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF.** *Story of husband and wife whose love is blocked by misunderstanding from past (movie available but diff from original)*
- Wolfe, Tom.** **THE ELECTRIC-KOOL-AID ACID TEST.** *An example of the "new journalism," an account of the adventures of Ken Kesey and his merry pranksters in San Francisco in the starting in the years when LSD was still legal.*
- Wright, James.** **BLACK BOY** *Searing autobiographical account of growing up under Jim Crow laws*