



**Clark English IV AP/Dual
Summer Reading 2021-2020**

You only need to **choose one** to read for your summer reading. Don't worry if there are a couple that appeal to you. We will reuse this list over the course of the year and you will have the opportunity to work with other titles. You can check out digital books on Sora, Libby, and Overdrive through the Clark Library or visit your local bookstore. The following list contains titles and descriptions (courtesy of Amazon).

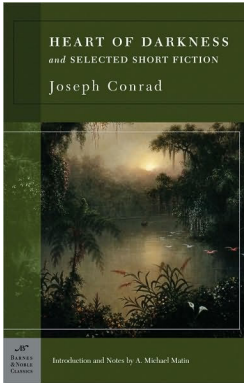
<i>Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Oscar Wilde
<p><i>In the wealthy and vain hedonist Dorian Gray, London painter Basil Hallward has found his muse. Only when the portrait of Dorian begins to age, while the man himself remains untouched by time, do they realize they may have made a deal with the devil.</i></p> <p><i>Oscar Wilde's only novel takes a witty, philosophical, and harrowing look at our obsession with youth and the price we pay for it.</i></p>	

<i>The Awakening</i> Kate Chopin	Kate Chopin
<p><i>Kate Chopin's The Awakening is the story of Edna Pontellier and her struggle between her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing attitudes of the American South at the start of the 20th century.</i></p> <p><i>Originally published in 1899, Kate Chopin's masterpiece is considered to be a landmark work of early feminism, as well as a precursor of American modernist literature. It is also considered to be among the first contributions to the "Southern" tradition of American literature, prefiguring the works of Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, Katherine Anne Porter, and Tennessee Williams.</i></p>	

Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad

Heart of Darkness (1899) is a short novel by Polish novelist Joseph Conrad, written as a frame narrative, about Charles Marlow's experience as an ivory transporter down the Congo River in Central Africa. The river is "a mighty big river, that you could see on the map,

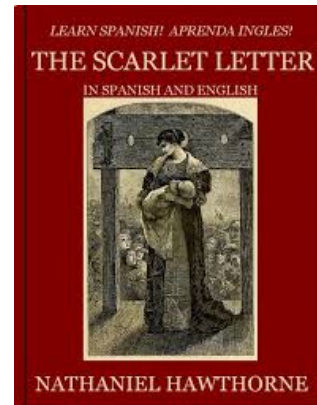


resembling an immense snake uncoiled, with its head in the sea, its body at rest curving afar over a vast country, and its tail lost in the depths of the land". In the course of his travel in central Africa, Marlow becomes obsessed with Mr. Kurtz. The story is a complex exploration of the attitudes people 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. Originally published as a three-part serial story, in *Blackwood's Magazine*, the novella *Heart of Darkness* has been variously published and translated into many languages. In 1998, the *Modern Library* ranked *Heart of Darkness* as the sixty-seventh of the hundred best novels in English of the twentieth century.

The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne

Nathaniel Hawthorne

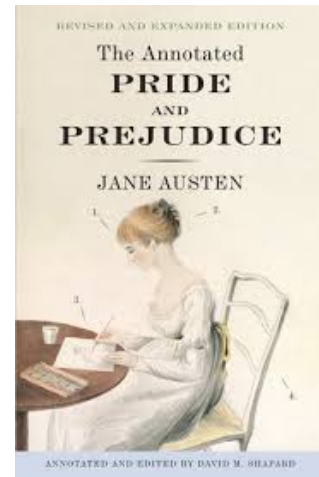
An "A" for "adultery" marks Hester Prynne as an outcast from the society of colonial Boston. Although forced by the puritanical town fathers to wear a bright red badge of shame, Hester steadfastly resists their efforts to discover the identity of her baby's father. The return of her long-absent spouse brings new pressure on the young mother, as the aggrieved husband undertakes a long-term plot to reveal Hester's partner in adultery and force him to share her disgrace. Masterful in its symbolism and compelling in its character studies, Nathaniel Hawthorne's tale of punishment and reconciliation examines the concepts of sin, guilt, and pride. *The Scarlet Letter* was published to immediate acclaim in 1850. Its timeless exploration of moral and spiritual issues, along with its philosophical and psychological insights, keep it ever relevant for students of American literature and lovers of fiction.



Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

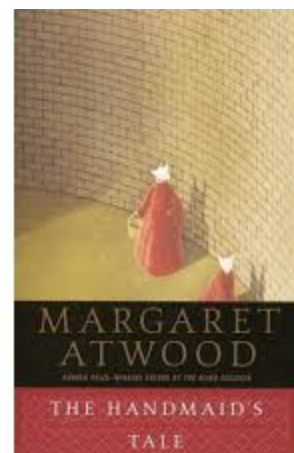
Pride and Prejudice is a novel of manners by Jane Austen, first published in 1813. The story follows the main character, Elizabeth Bennet, as she deals with issues of manners, upbringing, morality, education, and marriage in the society of the landed gentry of the British Regency. Elizabeth is the second of five daughters of a country gentleman living near the fictional town of Meryton in Hertfordshire, near London. Page 2 of a letter from Jane Austen to her sister Cassandra (11 June 1799) in which she first mentions *Pride and Prejudice*, using its working title *First Impressions*. Set in England in the early 19th century, *Pride and Prejudice* tells the story of Mr and Mrs Bennet's five unmarried daughters after the rich and eligible Mr Bingley and his status-conscious friend, Mr Darcy, have moved into their neighbourhood. While Bingley takes an immediate liking to the eldest Bennet daughter, Jane, Darcy has difficulty adapting to local society and repeatedly clashes with the second-eldest Bennet daughter, Elizabeth. Though Austen set the story at the turn of the 19th century, it retains a fascination for modern readers, continuing near the top of lists of "most loved books." It has become one of the most popular novels in English literature, selling over 20 million copies, and receives considerable attention from literary scholars. Modern interest in the book has resulted in a number of dramatic adaptations and an abundance of novels and stories imitating Austen's memorable characters or themes.



Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood

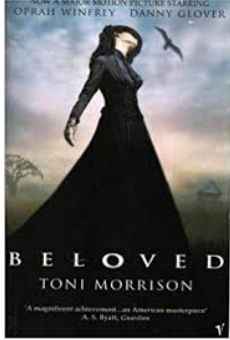
Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood's popular dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale* explores a broad range of issues relating to power, gender, and religious politics. After a staged terrorist attack kills the President and most of Congress, the government is deposed and taken over by the oppressive and all-controlling Republic of Gilead. Offred, now a Handmaid serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife, can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Despite the danger, Offred learns to navigate the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules in hopes of ending this oppression.



Beloved

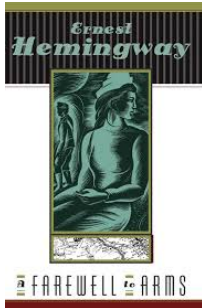
Toni Morrison



Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but 18 years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, Beloved is a towering achievement.

A Farewell to Arms

Ernest Hemingway



Written when Ernest Hemingway was thirty years old and lauded as the best American novel to emerge from World War I, A Farewell to Arms is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Set against the looming horrors of the battlefield-weary, demoralized men marching in the rain during the German attack on Caporetto; the profound struggle between loyalty and desertion-this gripping, semi-autobiographical work captures the harsh realities of war and the pain of lovers caught in its inexorable sweep.