

the GREAT American READ

- 1984** George Orwell
- A Confederacy of Dunces** John Kennedy Toole
- A Prayer For Owen Meany** John Irving
- A Separate Peace** John Knowles
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** Betty Smith
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** Mark Twain
- The Alchemist** Paulo Coelho
- Alex Cross Mysteries** (series) James Patterson
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** Lewis Carroll
- Americanah** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- And Then There Were None** Agatha Christie
- Anne of Green Gables** Lucy Maud Montgomery
- Another Country** James Baldwin
- Atlas Shrugged** Ayn Rand
- Beloved** Toni Morrison
- Bless Me, Ultima** Rudolfo Anaya
- The Book Thief** Markus Zusak
- The Brief Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao** Junot Díaz
- The Call Of The Wild** Jack London
- Catch-22** Joseph Heller
- The Catcher in the Rye** J.D. Salinger
- Charlotte's Web** E. B. White
- The Chronicles of Narnia** (series) C.S. Lewis
- Clan of the Cave Bear** Jean M. Auel
- Coldest Winter Ever** Sister Souljah
- The Color Purple** Alice Walker
- The Count of Monte Cristo** Alexandre Dumas
- Crime and Punishment** Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** Mark Haddon
- The Da Vinci Code** Dan Brown
- Don Quixote** Miguel de Cervantes
- Doña Bárbara** Rómulo Gallegos
- Dune** Frank Herbert
- Fifty Shades Of Grey** (series) E. L. James
- Flowers In The Attic** V.C. Andrews
- Foundation** (series) Isaac Asimov
- Frankenstein** Mary Shelley
- Game of Thrones** (series) George R. R. Martin
- Ghost** Jason Reynolds
- Gilead** Marilynne Robinson
- The Giver** Lois Lowry
- The Godfather** Mario Puzo
- Gone Girl** Gillian Flynn
- Gone with the Wind** Margaret Mitchell
- The Grapes of Wrath** John Steinbeck
- Great Expectations** Charles Dickens
- The Great Gatsby** F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift
- The Handmaid's Tale** Margaret Atwood
- Harry Potter** (series) J.K. Rowling
- Hatchet** (series) Gary Paulsen
- Heart Of Darkness** Joseph Conrad
- The Help** Kathryn Stockett
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy** Douglas Adams
- The Hunger Games** (series) Suzanne Collins
- The Hunt For Red October** Tom Clancy
- The Intuitionist** Colson Whitehead
- Invisible Man** Ralph Ellison
- Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- The Joy Luck Club** Amy Tan
- Jurassic Park** Michael Crichton
- Left Behind** (series) Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins
- The Little Prince** Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- Little Women** Louisa May Alcott
- Lonesome Dove** Larry McMurtry
- Looking for Alaska** John Green
- The Lord of the Rings** (series) J.R.R. Tolkien
- The Lovely Bones** Alice Sebold
- The Martian** Andy Weir
- Memoirs of a Geisha** Arthur Golden
- Mind Invaders** Dave Hunt
- Moby-Dick** Herman Melville
- The Notebook** Nicholas Sparks
- One Hundred Years of Solitude** Gabriel García Márquez
- Outlander** (series) Diana Gabaldon
- The Outsiders** S. E. Hinton
- The Picture of Dorian Gray** Oscar Wilde
- The Pilgrim's Progress** John Bunyan
- The Pillars of The Earth** Ken Follett
- Pride and Prejudice** Jane Austen
- Ready Player One** Ernest Cline
- Rebecca** Daphne du Maurier
- The Shack** William P. Young
- Siddhartha** Hermann Hesse
- The Sirens Of Titan** Kurt Vonnegut
- The Stand** Stephen King
- The Sun Also Rises** Ernest Hemingway
- Swan Song** Robert R. McCammon
- Tales of The City** (series) Armistead Maupin
- Their Eyes Were Watching God** Zora Neale Hurston
- Things Fall Apart** Chinua Achebe
- This Present Darkness** Frank. E. Peretti
- To Kill a Mockingbird** Harper Lee
- The Twilight Saga** (series) Stephenie Meyer
- War and Peace** Leo Tolstoy
- Watchers** Dean Koontz
- The Wheel of Time** (series) Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson
- Where the Red Fern Grows** Wilson Rawls
- White Teeth** Zadie Smith
- Wuthering Heights** Emily Brontë

IS YOUR FAVORITE ON THE LIST?
pbs.org/greatamericanread | #GreatReadPBS



PBS.



THE GREAT AMERICAN READ was an eight-part series that explored and celebrated the power of reading, told through the prism of America's 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey)*. It investigated how and why writers create their fictional worlds, how we as readers are affected by these stories, and what these 100 different books have to say about our diverse nation and our shared human experience.

The television series featured entertaining and informative documentary segments, with compelling testimonials from celebrities, authors, notable Americans and book lovers across the country. It was comprised of a two-hour launch episode in which the list of 100 books was revealed, five one-hour theme episodes that examined concepts common to groups of books on the list, and a finale, in which the results were announced of a nationwide vote to choose America's best-loved book.

The series was the centerpiece of an ambitious multi-platform digital, educational and community outreach campaign, designed to get the country reading and passionately talking about books.

What books are included on the list? The list contains a broad range of fictional titles, authors, time periods, countries, genres and subject matter. The list includes books from as far back as the 1600s and as recent as 2016. From beloved world literature to contemporary best sellers, many categories are represented: 20th century American classics, thrillers, young adult novels, sci-fi/fantasy, adventure, historical fiction, romantic stories, and books that represent the human experience told from a diverse range of perspectives.

Why are there only fiction books included? Why aren't religious works included? THE GREAT AMERICAN READ is searching for the country's best-loved novel. While we recognize the broad categories of books available, we chose to narrow our focus to works of fiction because it would be impossible to cover them all over the course of an eight-part series.

How were the top 100 books chosen? PBS and the producers worked with the public opinion polling service "YouGov" to conduct a demographically and statistically representative survey asking Americans to name their most-loved novel. Approximately 7,200 people participated.

How did you narrow that list to the top 100? The results were tallied and organized based on our selection criteria and overseen by an advisory panel of 13 literary industry professionals. The criteria for inclusion on the top 100 list were as follows:

1. Each author was limited to one title on the list (to keep the list varied).
2. Books published in series or featuring ongoing characters counted as one eligible entry on the list (e.g. the Harry Potter series or Lord of the Rings) to increase variety.
3. Books could be from anywhere in the world as long as they were published in English.
4. Only fiction could be included in the poll.
5. Each advisory panel member was permitted to select one book for discussion and possible inclusion on the top 100 list from the longer list of survey results.