

A Fine Diet of Books for Mr. Senger's Eighth Graders

“Some books are meant to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.” Francis Bacon

HEROIC ADVENTURE/FANTASY/HORROR

Richard Adams *Watership Down*
 Poul Anderson *Three Hearts and Three Lions*
 Peter S. Beagle *The Last Unicorn*
 John Bellairs: *The Face in the Frost*
 James Blaylock *All the Bells on Earth*
 Ray Bradbury: *Dandelion Wine*
Something Wicked This Way Comes
 Terry Brooks: The Shannara Series (*The Sword of Shannara, The Elfstones of Shannara, The Wishsong of Shannara, etc.*)
 Edgar R. Burroughs: The Tarzan of the Apes Series
 Susanna Clarke *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell*
 Susan Cooper: The Dark is Rising Series (*Over Sea, Under Stone, The Dark is Rising, Greenwitch, etc.*)
 David Eddings: The Belgariad (*Pawn of Prophecy, Queen of Sorcery, Magician's Gambit, Castle of Wizardry, etc.*)
 Raymond Feist The Riftwar Saga (*Magician: Apprentice, Magician: Master, Silverthorn, etc.*)
 William Goldman *The Princess Bride*
 H. Rider Haggard: *King Solomon's Mines*
She
 Robert E. Howard: The Conan Series
 Brian Jacques: The Redwall Series (*Mossflower, Redwall, Mattimeo, etc.*)
 Robert Jordan The Wheel of Time Series (*The Eye of the World, etc.*)
 Katherine Kurtz: The Chronicles of the Deryni (*Deryni Rising, Deryni Checkmate, High Deryni*)
 The Legends of Camber of Culdi (*Camber of Culdi, Saint Camber, Camber the Heretic*)
 Stephen Lawhead: The Pendragon Cycle (*Taliesan, Merlin, Arthur*)
Byzantium
 Ursula LeGuin: The Earthsea Trilogy (*A Wizard of Earthsea, The Tombs of Atuan, The Farthest Shore*)
 Fritz Leiber *Swords and Deviltry, Swords Against Death, etc.*
 C.S. Lewis *The Chronicles of Narnia (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Magician's Nephew, etc.)*
 George MacDonald *Lilith*
 Anne McCaffrey: *Dragonsong*
 Dennis L. McKiernan The Iron Tower Trilogy (*The Dark Tide, Shadows of Doom, The Darkest Day*)
 Patricia McKillip *The Forgotten Beasts of Eld*
The Book of Atrix Wolf
 George Orwell: *Animal Farm*
 Frank Peretti *This Present Darkness*
 J. K. Rowling The Harry Potter Series
 Fred Saberhagen: *Empire of the East*
 Book of Swords Trilogy
 The Books of Lost Swords
 Christopher Stasheff The Warlock Series (*The Warlock in Spite of Himself, The Warlock Unlocked, etc.*)
 Mary Stewart: The King Arthur Books (*The Crystal Cave, The Hollow Hills, The Last*

Enchantment, The Wicked Day)
 Cynthia Voigt: *The Wings of a Falcon*
 Walter Wangerin, Jr. *The Book of the Dun Cow*
The Book of Sorrows
 T.H. White: *The Once and Future King*
 Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
 Tad Williams: *Tailchaser's Song*
 Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn (*The Dragonbone Chair, Stone of Farewell, To Green Angel Tower*)

SCIENCE FICTION

Edwin Abbott: *Flatland*
 Douglas Adams: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, etc.*
 Richard Adams *The Plague Dogs*
 Poul Anderson: *The Time Patrol*
 Isaac Asimov: The Foundation Series (*Foundation, Foundation and Empire, Second Foundation, etc.*)
I, Robot
The Caves of Steel
The Naked Sun
 Pierre Boulle: *Planet of the Apes*
 Ben Bova: The Exiles Trilogy (*Exiled from Earth, Flight of Exiles, End of Exile*)
The Multiple Man
 Ray Bradbury: *The Martian Chronicles*
The Illustrated Man
 Orson Scott Card: *Ender's Game*
 Arthur C. Clarke: *2001: A Space Odyssey*
 Suzanne Collins: *The Hunger Games* trilogy
 Michael Crichton: *Jurassic Park*
The Lost World
The Andromeda Strain
 Gordon Dickson: *Dorsai!*
 A. Conan Doyle: *The Lost World*
 Jack Finney: *Time and Again*
 Pat Frank: *Alas Babylon*
 Robert Heinlein: *Starship Troopers*
Red Planet
 Frank Herbert: *Dune*
 L. Ron Hubbard: *Battlefield: Earth*
 C.S. Lewis: The Space Trilogy (*Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength*)
 Lois Lowry *The Giver*
 Walter Miller, Jr.: *A Canticle for Leibowitz*
 L. Niven/J. Pournelle *The Mote in God's Eye*
Footfall
 Robert C. O'Brian: *Z for Zachariah*
 George Orwell: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
 Fred Saberhagen: The Berkerker Series (*Berserker, Brother Assassin, etc.*)

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Science Fiction – Continued

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
 Nevil Shute: *On the Beach*
 Harry Turtledove: *Guns of the South*
 World War: In the Balance
 H.G. Wells: *The Time Machine*
 The War of the Worlds
 The Island of Dr. Moreau
 Connie Willis: *Doomsday Book*

HISTORICAL FICTION

Richard Adams: *Traveller*
 James Clavell: *Shogun*
 Richard H. Dana, Jr.: *Two Years Before the Mast*
 Lloyd C. Douglas: *The Robe*
 Alexander Dumas: *The Three Musketeers*
 Bette Greene: *Summer of My German Soldier*
 Alex Haley: *Roots*
 John Hersey: *A Bell for Adano*
 Marjorie Holmes: *Two from Galilee*
 Three from Galilee
 Christopher Hudson: *The Killing Fields*
 Irene Hunt: *Across Five Aprils*
 Frederick Marryat: *Mr. Midshipman Easy*
 Walter Dean Meyers: *Fallen Angels*
 James Michener: *The Source*
 The Covenant
 Margaret Mitchell: *Gone With the Wind*
 Patrick O'Brien: *Master and Commander, etc.*
 Baroness Orczy: *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
 Erich Remarque: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
 Kenneth Roberts: *Northwest Passage*
 Sir Walter Scott: *Ivanhoe*
 Michael Shaara: *The Killer Angels*
 Nevil Shute: *A Town Like Alice*
 Elie Wiesel: *Night*
 Herman Wouk: *The Winds of War and War and Remembrance*
 Markus Zusak: *The Book Thief*

MYSTERY/DETECTIVE

(Detective listed in parentheses)
 Isaac Asimov: *Tales of the Black Widowers*
 John Ball: (Virgil Tibbs)
 In the Heat of the Night

G.K. Chesterton: (Father Brown)
 The Complete Father Brown (short stories)
 The Man Who Was Thursday
 Agatha Christie: (Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot)
 Murder on the Orient Express
 Curtain
 The Mysterious Affair at Styles
 And Then There Were None
 Wilkie Collins: *The Woman in White*
 The Moonstone
 Daphne DuMarier: *Rebecca*
 Erle Stanley Gardner: (Perry Mason)
 The Case of the Crooked Candle
 The Case of the Perjured Parrot
 The Case of the Angry Mourner
 The Leavenworth Case
 Anna K. Green: *The Leavenworth Case*
 Dashiell Hammett: (Sam Spade)
 The Maltese Falcon
 Georgette Heyer: (Inspector Hannasyde)
 A Blunt Instrument
 Merely Murder
 Laurie R. King: (Mary Russell)
 A Monstrous Regiment of Women
 Ralph McInerney: (Father Dowling)
 Her Death of Cold
 Desert Sinner
 A.A. Milne: *The Red House Mystery*
 Joan Lowry Nixon: *The Other Side of Dark*
 The Name of the Game was Murder
 The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore
 Sr. Carol O'Marie: (Sister Mary Helen)
 Advent of Dying
 A Novena for Murder
 The Missing Madonna
 Murder in Ordinary Time
 Ellis Peters: (Brother Cadfael)
 A Morbid Taste for Bones
 One Corpse Too Many
 Edgar Allen Poe: *Tales of Mystery and Imagination*
 Ellery Queen: (Ellery Queen)
 The King is Dead
 The Greek Coffin Mystery
 Mary R. Rinehart: *The Circular Staircase*
 Dorothy Sayers: (Lord Peter Wimsey)
 Strong Poison
 The Nine Tailors
 Unnatural Death
 Clouds of Witness
 Rex Stout: (Nero Wolfe)
 And be a Villain
 The Second Confession
 Too Many Cooks

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MYSTERY/DETECTIVE - CONTINUED

Josephine Tey: *The Daughter of Time*
 Arthur Upfield: (Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte)
Murder Down Under
The New Shoe
Death of a Lake
The Devil's Steps
 S.S. Van Dine: (Philo Vance)
The Benson Murder Case
The Bishop Murder Case
 Cynthia Voigt: *The Callender Papers*

GENERAL FICTION

Louisa May Alcott: *Little Women*
 Maya Angelou: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
 E.R. Braithwaite: *To Sir, With Love*
 Robert Cormier: *The Chocolate War*
I Am the Cheese
 Edna Ferber: *Giant*
 C.S. Forester: *The African Queen*
Mr. Midshipman Hornblower
Lieutenant Hornblower
 Jostein Gaarder: *Sophie's World*
The Solitaire Mystery
 Thomas Hardy: *The Return of the Native*
 Jan Karon: *The Mitford Years (At Home in Mitford, etc.)*
 W.P. Kinsella: *Shoeless Joe*
The Iowa Baseball Conspiracy
 Rudyard Kipling: *Captains Courageous*
The Jungle Book
 John Knowles: *A Separate Peace*
Peace Breaks Out
 Ian Lawrence: *Ghost Boy*
 Harper Lee: *To Kill a Mockingbird*
 Sinclair Lewis: *Arrowsmith*
 Michelle Magorian: *Goodnight, Mr. Tom*
 Bernard Malamud: *The Natural*
 Walter Dean Meyers: *Monster*
 Alan Paton: *Cry, the Beloved Country*
 Chaim Potok: *The Chosen*
The Promise
My Name is Asher Lev
 Upton Sinclair: *The Jungle*
 J.D. Salinger: *Catcher in the Rye*
 Paul Zindel: *The Pigman*

RELIGIOUS FICTION/NON-FICTION

Jim Bishop: *The Day Christ Died*
 Bonaventure: *The Soul's Journey into God*
The Tree of Life
The Life of St. Francis
 G.K. Chesterton: *St. Thomas Aquinas*
St. Francis of Assisi
 Dorothy Day: *The Long Loneliness*
 Louis DeWohl: *The Quiet Light (St. Thomas Aquinas)*
The Restless Flame (St. Augustine)
Citadel of God (St. Benedict)
 Richard Foster: *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*
 Rumer Godden: *In this House of Brede*
 Thomas A Kempis: *Imitation of Christ*
 Peter Kreeft: *Yes or No*
Making Sense Out of Suffering
Prayer for Beginners
 Brother Lawrence: *The Practice of the Presence of God*
 C.S. Lewis: *Miracles*
Mere Christianity
The Problem of Pain
The Great Divorce
A Grief Observed
Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer
The Screwtape Letters
 Dorothy Sayers: *The Man Born to Be King*
 Fulton Sheen: *Life of Christ*
 Franz Werfel: *The Song of Bernadette*
 Charles Williams: *War in Heaven*

WESTERN

Andy Adams: *The Log of a Cowboy*
 Clifton Adams: *Tragg's Choice*
 Ann Ashlewede: *Hunting Wolf*
 Verne Athanas: *Maverick*
 Todhunter Ballard: *Gold in California*
 Frank Bonham: *Lost Stage Valley*
Snaketrack
 B.M. Bower: *Chip of the Flying U*
 Max Brand: *Destry Rides Again*
 Will C. Brown: *The Nameless Breed*
 W.R. Burnett: *Saint Johnson*
 Benjamin Capps: *The Trail to Ogalla*
Sam Chance
 Forrest Carter: *The Vengeance Trail of Josey Wales*
 Willa Cather: *O Pioneers!*
My Antonia
 W. Van Tilburg Clark: *The Ox-bow Incident*

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WESTERN – continued

J. Fenimore Cooper:	<i>The Deerslayer</i> <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>
Vardis Fisher:	<i>Children of God</i>
Norman A. Fox:	<i>Night Passage</i>
Zane Grey:	<i>Riders of the Purple Sage</i>
Bill Gulick:	<i>A Drum Calls West</i> <i>The Land Beyond</i>
A.B. Guthrie:	<i>The Big Sky</i> <i>The Way West</i>
Helen Hunt Jackson:	<i>Ramona</i>
Elmer Kelton:	<i>The Day the Cowboys Quit</i> <i>The Time it Never Rained</i>
Oliver LaFarge:	<i>Laughing Boy</i>
Louis L'Amour:	<i>Hondo</i> <i>Last Stand at Papago Wells</i>
Alan LeMay:	<i>The Searchers</i>
Elmore Leonard:	<i>Hombre</i> <i>Valdez is Coming</i>
Giles A. Lutz:	<i>The Honyocker</i>
James Michener:	<i>Centennial</i>
Frank Norris:	<i>The Octopus</i>
Wayne D. Overholser:	<i>The Violent Land</i>
Conrad Richter:	<i>The Sea of Grass</i> <i>The Light in the Forest</i>
Jack Schaefer:	<i>Shane</i>
Luke Short:	<i>Savage Range</i>
Owen Wister:	<i>The Virginian</i>

NON-FICTION

Mortimer Adler	<i>How to Read a Book</i> <i>Aristotle for Everybody</i> <i>Six Great Ideas</i>
Kevin Codd	<i>To the Field of the Stars</i>
Benjamin Franklin	<i>Autobiography</i>
John Gunther	<i>Death Be Not Proud</i>
Alex Haley	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>
James Herriot	<i>All Creatures Great and Small</i>
John Hersey	<i>Hiroshima</i>
Farley Mowatt	<i>Never Cry Wolf</i>
Gale Sayers	<i>I Am Third</i>

Sources:

Anatomy of Wonder - Neil Barron, ed.
The Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan - John Hardon, S.J.
Great Books for Young Adults - Betty Carter
A Catalogue of Crime - Jacques Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor
Fantasy: The 100 Best Books - James Cawthorn and Michael Moorcock
Genre Favorites for Young Adults - Sally Estes, ed.
The Lifetime Reading Plan - Clifton Fadiman
The Mammoth Book of the Western - Jon E. Lewis, ed.
Outstanding Books for the College Bound - Mary Ann Paulin and Susan Berlin
Read for Your Life
Reading List for College Bound Students - Estell, Satchwell and Wright
Take and Read: Spiritual Reading – Eugene H. Peterson

from “*The Pyramid of Books*” by Mortimer Adler:

“The great majority of the several million books that have been written in the Western tradition alone—more than 99 percent of them—will not make sufficient demands on you for you to improve your skill in reading. This may seem like a distressing fact, and the percentages may seem an overestimate. But obviously, considering the numbers involved, it is true. These are the books that can be read only for amusement or information. The amusement may be of many kinds, and the information may be interesting in all sorts of ways. But you should not expect to learn anything of importance from them. In fact, you do not have to read them—analytically—at all. Skimming will do.”