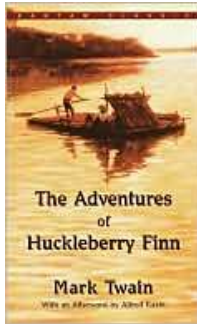




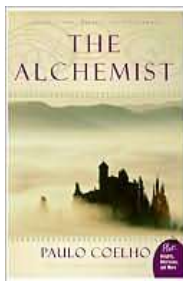
NOVEL LIST

ELA 10-1



4 copies

In **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**, Huck Finn, son of the town drunk, runs away to escape his father's brutality and the tender ministrations of the well-meaning woman who wishes to "civilize" him. He joins Jim, a runaway slave, who is fleeing to avoid being sold "down the river." The narrative traces the adventures of the two fugitives as they float down the Mississippi on a raft. The novel begins as a boy's adventure story, moves into a devastating criticism of society in the central part of the book, and returns once more to youthful adventure at the conclusion.



1 copy

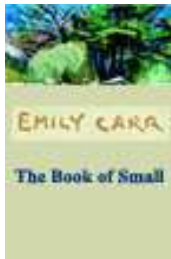
The Alchemist is a gentle and charming adventure fable. It is told with magic and wonder by Brazilian author Paulo Coelho. The main character of the book, Santiago, is an Andalusian shepherd boy who leaves Spain in search of treasure. Eventually, Santiago finds his way to the Egyptian desert where he meets an alchemist who offers metaphysical lessons and wisdom on life.



1 copy

Animal Farm is a satiric utopia, an indictment of dictatorship and the abuse of power. The animals on Manor Farm drive out their master, Jones, and take over and administer the farm, adopting new principles consisting of seven commandments. The last of these is: "All animals are equal." Conditions on the farm soon become oppressive again and the animals discover that, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others," especially the intelligent pigs that administer the rules and assume dominate positions.

This fable satirizes dictatorship and the abuse of power, integrating complex political ideas and paralleling closely the events of the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. Orwell believed that Stalin betrayed the Marxist revolution and wanted to expose the nature of Russian communism.



0 copies

In **The Book of Small**, Emily Carr, one of Canada's great painters, recalls her growing-up years in Victoria, British Columbia, in the 1870s. "Small" is her nickname as the youngest of three sisters: Big, Middle and Small.

This series of short, readable, lively literary sketches provides a sense of a Victoria which, even in its pioneer days, displays the Englishness and eccentricity that becomes part of its character. It also reflects the sensitivity to vivid detail of the artist as a child. The writing is simple, unaffected; the tone warm, often whimsical and humorous.



3 copies

The Chrysalids tells of a time after a nuclear war in Labrador when the survivors believe the devastation is a punishment from God; and as a result, rigidly structure society so that any deviation from the "norm" is considered to be seditious. David Strom leads a group of young people who have telepathic powers and when their deviation is discovered, they must escape. At the climax of the pursuit, David and his friends are rescued by the New Zealanders, members of a neighbouring society that depicts the next stage of evolutionary development where telepathic communication is accepted.

Two themes are strongly emphasized. First, humankind must be able to accept individual differences and to adapt to change, while intolerance leads to hate and the destruction of civilization. Second, ambition and pride may be destructive when one attempts to control all others



0 copies

Dragonsbane is a fantasy in which John, a dragonslayer, and Jenny, a mage, journey to kill the dreaded Morkeleb, the fiercest of dragons. Through a series of adventures, Jenny is able to search for truth and realize her destiny. Jenny's sense of purpose and growing awareness of her needs and desires provides a powerful ending when she realizes that she can become a dragon—all powerful, or a human wife and mother.

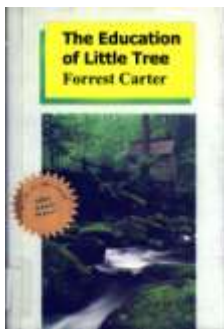
Interesting discussions will develop regarding good versus evil, the use of power, and the giving up of one's life in the aid of others. There are strong thematic links to our struggles against evil while searching for truth are universal to humankind.

The use of magic and sorcery does not demand that students believe in this fantasy, but rather it is a tool to develop plot. The strength of this novel is in its writing style, character development, and decision-making processes. Students should enjoy class discussions regarding the moral dilemmas encountered by Jenny and John.



0 copies

Fateless, a Nobel prize-winning novel is about the experiences of George Kovcs, a Jewish boy surviving in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. Although the book is fictional, it is informed by Imre Kertész's own life as a Hungarian Jew imprisoned at Auschwitz and Buchenwald during his boyhood. *Fateless* is a mixture of history and strong emotional content. It provides basic information about the appalling living conditions and constant fight for survival of those who were trapped by circumstances beyond their control. The narrative is told in a matter-of-fact manner in harrowing detail. The book's sometimes graphic language and references to violence, cruelty, racism, gender orientation and sexuality may be objectionable to some students and community members; however, these elements serve to vividly illustrate the treatment of Jewish people in concentration camps during World War II.



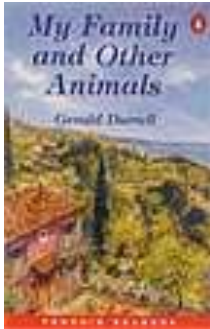
1 copy

The Education of Little Tree tells the story of a young Cherokee boy who is brought up by his grandparents in a small mountain community in early 20th century America. He grows and matures as he learns about tolerance and understanding, while becoming sensitive to other people and the world of nature around him. Not only is Little Tree educated, but the reader also gains great respect and love for the Cherokee way of life. The story is told by Little Tree and is limited by his perceptions as a child, suggesting naiveté and honesty. The novel should promote an understanding of and empathy for Native peoples, as well as pride in Native culture.



1 copy

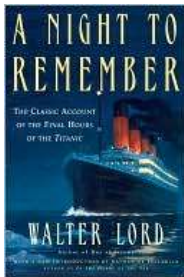
The **Girl with a Pearl Earring** is a simple, readable novel inspired by Johannes Vermeer's famous painting alluded to in the title. In a 1600s household, Griet, a sixteen-year-old servant becomes involved with the famous Dutch artist. Vermeer eventually paints her wearing his wife's pearl earrings, which are immortalized in the painting. Although the narrative reflects the morals and values of the 17th century the story focuses on Griet's maturation—emotionally, physically and sexually (teachers should be aware that some students or communities might be offended by the description of sexual acts in the text).



0 copies

A custom official aptly describes the Durrell family in **My Family and Other Animals** as a “travelling circus and staff.” Persuaded by her eldest son, Larry, Mrs. Durrell sells her home in England and takes her family to live on the island of Corfu for five years. The amusing and eccentric antics of the family are rivalled only by the author and youngest child’s reminiscences of his boyhood. Gerald’s fascination with animals resulted in incidents, such as snakes living in the bathtub and magpies ransacking the house. Freed from the rigours of regular schooling, Gerald spends his time investigating nature and acquiring a miscellany of oddly named pets.

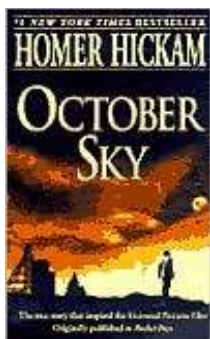
Durrell’s deft touch in creating humour is rare in nonfiction. Students may wish to use his writing as a model for creating their own comedy. The book inspires personal response and may be presented for full class, small group or individual study.



2 copies

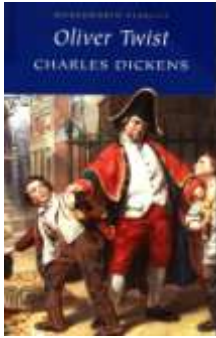
A Night to Remember is on April 12, 1912 when the Titanic, the “unsinkable” British liner began its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York with over 2000 passengers, including the elite of British and American society. When the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank, over 1000 people drowned. This account emphasizes a fatal sense of invulnerability on the part of owners, crew and passengers. The fairly rigid class system in the early part of the 1900s is seen, to some extent, as determining the fate of all.

A Night to Remember is retold as a moment-by-moment, person-by-person account, from the sighting of the deadly iceberg to the rescue of survivors by the Carpathia, five hours later. The emphasis is on individual human reactions to the disaster as it occurs, and on the memories of survivors, 63 of whom the author interviewed in the process of writing the book.



1 copy

October Sky, easier-to-read than its length implies, is a rewarding book about a vanishing lifestyle represented by the 1950s small-town America. This entertaining and nostalgic memoir is centered on a group of high school friends in Coalwood, West Virginia, who share an avid enthusiasm for rocketry at a time when the United States space program was beginning. The boys experiment with scrap metal from the town’s company mines, and eventually succeed in building functioning rockets. At the same time, Hickam struggles to avoid the fate of so many teens in his area—working in the mine—and for this reason, he comes into conflict with his miner-father.



1 copy

The overall tone of **Oliver Twist** is romantic and sentimental, and the characters are charming, but the events do reveal the miseries of the poor. It is also a bitter social criticism set in London during the early 1800s. Oliver, who is illegitimate, starved and ill-treated, eventually becomes involved with a gang of thieves and pickpockets. After many adventures, he finds both friends and fortune.

The plot provides for interesting discussion on the varied characters, most of whom are one-sided, and reveals the extremes of human nature. Dickens' novel reflects how society at that time discriminated against the Jews and the poor.



1 copy

Random Passage is regarded as one of the most widely read books about Newfoundland and is considered representative of its culture. The protagonist Lavinia Andrews is a seventeen-year-old living in a tiny outport of early Newfoundland. In her journal, she records the adventures of her family in this barren land in the language of the time and place.

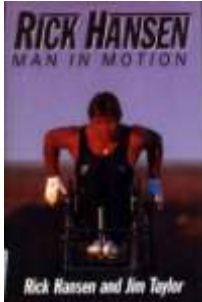
This rich book deals with love, power, greed, forgotten pasts, missed opportunities, and the importance of community. The effect of adversity on character is the main focus in this coming-of-age romance. It also contains many 'exotic' elements associated with romantic historical fiction or adventure writing: privateers, polar bears, tragic love, madness and murder.



3 copies

Rebecca, Daphne du Maurier's Gothic romance-melodrama-mystery remains a popular literary staple. The story is narrated by the second wife of wealthy Maxim de Winter. The new Mrs. de Winter, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Rebecca, Maxim's dead wife, comes to live at the Manderley mansion on the Cornish coast. Feeling unwelcome and plagued by the presence of Rebecca in the house, Mrs. de Winter begins to unravel the mysterious sailing accident in which Rebecca was killed.

The novel illustrates the influence that charismatic people can have on the lives of others. This is especially evident with the new Mrs. de Winter as she wrestles with overcoming her own insecurities. Rebecca also deals with the feelings of loyalty, obsession, possessiveness and jealousy, and how these adversely affect the lives of others.



1 copy

Rick Hansen: Man in Motion is the modern success story of a man who gives hope and encouragement to all people, as well as to those in circumstances similar to his own. Hansen's activities, supported by many volunteers, created a recognition of and commitment to awareness of the hopes, dreams and feelings of those with disabilities.

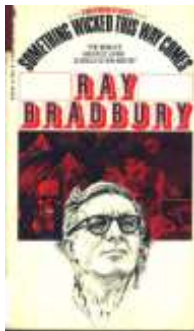
Born in British Columbia, Rick Hansen was disabled at a young age, but never let this inhibit his athletic or other endeavours. While in his 20s, he undertook a world Man in Motion tour, in his wheelchair, to draw attention to persons with disabilities, their aspirations and needs.



1 copy

Silas Marner is a relatively short, yet stylistically polished novel providing a social, moral, religious and psychological commentary on 19th century rural England.

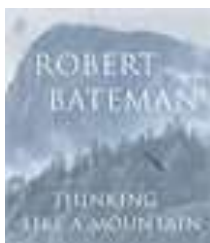
Eliot traces the life of Silas Marner, a skilled weaver in the village of Raveloe and a reclusive miser. His beloved gold is stolen but its place in his heart is taken by a small golden-haired child who mysteriously arrives at Marner's cottage, and whom Marner adopts and cares for. The plot has other mysterious and dramatic events, but it is essentially a fable of loss and redemption through love.



1 copy

In **Something Wicked This Way Comes**, suspense and foreboding emanate from the very beginning of two boys' involvement with the Carnival and Pandemonium Shadow Show. They are caught in an evil nightmare where the old turn young and the young turn old, mirrors steal souls, and the exhibits within a wax museum are of living people. Before they can escape, they must confront the ultimate evil. This fantasy develops the idea of a secret dream or wish, but after that wish is granted, things are never the same.

The plot develops the idea of youth and goodness versus the carnival of evil. Youth is presented as wise, while those who are older, especially males, are shown to be desirous of the qualities of youth. One of the themes of the novel is that our own fears may destroy us. While there is horror, there is no descriptive violence.

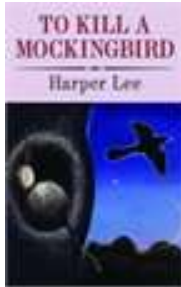


1 copy

Thinking Like a Mountain is a passionate, eloquent plea for conservation of nature and the planet. Bateman is a well-known Canadian artist and environmentalist who writes movingly about how nature has changed from his childhood to the present day. In thoughtful, concise chapters, he clearly indicts the influence of capitalistic greed and consumption on the destruction of nature. The book is also illustrated by Bateman's own drawings.

The accessibility and balanced perspective of Bateman's text

provides a good introduction to ecological issues. This reflective, user-friendly text invites personal, creative, critical and problem-solving responses on many levels. In particular, most students will have strong opinions about his assessment of their age group in the chapter titled "Homo sapiens Teenager consumerensis."



several

In Alabama, during the Depression, Scout, the protagonist of **To Kill a Mockingbird**, develops a growing awareness of good and evil in the world around her; racial and class prejudice within both the black and white communities, and the religious prejudices of the various sects of the area. Counterbalancing this are the positive qualities of compassion, sympathy, understanding and wisdom demonstrated by various characters, primarily Scout's father, Atticus.

Told from Scout's point of view, the novel is a look at the past: a child's experiences described with the perception of an adult. The novel deals with complex ethical issues, and may require a great deal of class discussion. Characters, such as Atticus, demonstrate that one individual can make a difference.



0 copies

Touch the Dragon is a first-person journal recounting Karen Connolly's one-year stay in Thailand as a 17-year-old exchange student. The memoir made Connolly, at 24 years old, the youngest writer to win a Governor General's Award.

The book is about the honest frustrations of a teenager trying to cope with the alienation and cultural shock of living in a foreign country away from familiar surroundings. With passion, humour and some mildly course language, the memoir gradually reveals how Connolly comes to understand, appreciate and eventually miss the exotic beauty of the Thai people.



1 copy

Waiting for the Rain is a South African tale of a friendship between two boys, one black and one white. The boys develop a harmonious childhood relationship oblivious to the discord around them. As the boys grow older, their differences are accentuated. Unlike Tengo, Frikkie has many opportunities for advancement in society. Tengo is shocked by the injustice to and maltreatment of his people on the farm, in the townships and cities. When Tengo and Frikkie meet again, both their dreams have been altered by the demands of their respective societies.



3 copies

Who Has Seen the Wind, a Canadian classic, tells the story of Brian, a boy growing up in a small prairie town during the thirties. He gradually comes to accept life as he finds it—imperfect, sometimes brutal and tragic, but ordered somehow by a benevolent, all-pervading power. The book offers rich material for the study of symbolism, prose style, character, setting, plot structure, philosophy and psychology.