

GROUP 1

1. The Hate U Give — Angie Thomas

Published: 2017

Starr Carter is a sixteen-year-old girl who lives between her Black neighborhood and a mostly white private school.

Her life changes when she witnesses her childhood friend Khalil being shot and killed by a police officer. As the shooting becomes national news, Starr faces racism, protests, police violence, and pressure to remain silent.

The story also contains strong language, drug references, and mature discussions about relationships and sexuality.

The novel explores racism, identity, justice, friendship, and the importance of speaking up.

2. The Kite Runner — Khaled Hosseini

Published: 2003

Amir grows up in Afghanistan with his best friend Hassan, but their friendship is changed by a traumatic act of violence.

Amir fails to protect Hassan and carries guilt about what happened for many years.

After moving to America, he eventually returns to Afghanistan to confront his past and help Hassan's family.

The novel contains sexual violence, war, disturbing events, strong language, and controversial religious themes. It explores friendship, betrayal, guilt, family, forgiveness, and redemption.

3. A Court of Wings and Ruin — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2017

Feyre returns to the Spring Court while secretly gathering information for her allies.

She discovers that a major war is approaching and that the different faerie courts must unite.

As Feyre and her friends prepare for battle, they face violence, danger, and painful sacrifices.

The novel also contains explicit romantic and sexual content, profanity, and references to abuse.

It explores love, friendship, courage, loyalty, freedom, and survival.

4. Water for Elephants — Sara Gruen

Published: 2006

Jacob joins a traveling circus after losing his parents during the Great Depression.

He becomes the circus veterinarian and falls in love with Marlena, who is trapped in an abusive marriage.

Her husband August is violent toward both people and animals, creating constant danger.

The novel also includes sexual situations, profanity, alcohol, and disturbing scenes involving animal cruelty.

It explores love, survival, cruelty, friendship, and life during the Great Depression.

5. Milk and Honey — Rupi Kaur

Published: 2014

Milk and Honey is a collection of short poems about love, heartbreak, trauma, relationships, and healing.

Some poems deal with sexual experiences, abuse, and the emotional effects of painful relationships.

The collection is divided into sections that represent different stages of suffering and recovery.

Kaur uses simple language and illustrations to express difficult and personal experiences.

The book focuses on self-worth, survival, healing, and learning to move forward.

GROUP 2

1. The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood

Published: 1985

Offred lives in Gilead, a dystopian society where women have lost their freedom and basic rights. She is forced to become a Handmaid whose reproductive ability is controlled by the government. She remembers her husband and daughter while secretly looking for ways to resist the system. The novel contains sexual violence, abuse, executions, religious extremism, and disturbing descriptions of oppression. It explores power, freedom, gender inequality, religion, reproductive control, and resistance.

2. Looking for Alaska — John Green

Published: 2005

Miles leaves home to attend boarding school and hopes to discover a more exciting life. He becomes close to Alaska Young and experiences friendship, romance, drinking, smoking, and teenage rebellion. A tragic event changes his life and leaves him struggling with grief and guilt. The book includes sexual content, profanity, alcohol, drugs, smoking, and discussions of suicide. It explores love, friendship, loss, responsibility, and growing up.

3. Empire of Storms — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2016

Aelin returns to Terrasen and prepares for a massive war against powerful enemies. She gathers allies while trying to protect her kingdom and the people she loves. The characters face battles, violence, imprisonment, and difficult sacrifices. The novel also contains explicit sexual situations, profanity, and other mature romantic themes. It explores love, loyalty, friendship, power, sacrifice, and war.

4. The Bluest Eye — Toni Morrison

Published: 1970

Pecola is a young Black girl who believes that having blue eyes would make her beautiful and accepted. She grows up surrounded by racism, poverty, neglect, and harmful ideas about beauty. Her difficult childhood becomes even more traumatic when she experiences severe sexual and physical abuse. These disturbing experiences contribute to her emotional and psychological breakdown. The novel explores racism, beauty standards, childhood trauma, abuse, identity, and self-worth.

5. Thirteen Reasons Why — Jay Asher

Published: 2007

Clay Jensen receives recordings made by Hannah Baker before her death. Through the recordings, Hannah describes bullying, relationships, sexual experiences, and painful events that affected her. Clay listens to the tapes while trying to understand what happened and how people treated Hannah. The book contains discussions of suicide, sexual assault, drugs, alcohol, and strong language. It explores grief, bullying, guilt, responsibility, and the effects people's actions can have on others.

GROUP 3

1. A Clash of Kings — George R. R. Martin

Published: 1998

Several kings and powerful families fight for control of Westeros during a brutal civil war. Political alliances constantly change as characters compete for power and survival. Jon Snow faces dangers beyond the Wall while Daenerys tries to strengthen her position elsewhere. The novel contains graphic violence, death, sexual content, rape, incest, and strong language. It explores ambition, power, loyalty, betrayal, war, and survival.

2. The Hate U Give — Angie Thomas

Published: 2017

Starr witnesses her childhood friend Khalil being killed by a police officer during a traffic stop. She struggles with grief while watching the media and community debate whether Khalil was responsible for his own death. Starr also faces racism and pressure at her predominantly white school. The novel includes profanity, drug references, sexual discussions, and depictions of police violence. It explores racism, identity, justice, friendship, courage, and finding your voice.

3. Tower of Dawn — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2017

Chaol travels to a distant kingdom hoping to find someone who can heal his serious injuries. He meets Yrene, a healer who initially distrusts him because of his past actions. Together they uncover a dangerous threat that could affect kingdoms far beyond their own. The story includes violence, mature romantic relationships, sexual references, and discussions of trauma. It focuses on healing, forgiveness, friendship, romance, politics, and adventure.

4. A Stolen Life — Jaycee Dugard

Published: 2011

Jaycee Dugard was kidnapped at the age of eleven and held captive for eighteen years. During her captivity, she experienced severe abuse and was separated from her family and normal childhood. She eventually became a mother while still being held captive. After her rescue, she describes the psychological effects of her experiences and her difficult journey toward recovery. The memoir focuses on survival, trauma, family, resilience, and rebuilding a life after captivity.

5. Looking for Alaska — John Green

Published: 2005

Miles arrives at boarding school hoping to escape his ordinary life and find something meaningful. He becomes close to Alaska and experiences friendship, romance, drinking, smoking, and teenage rebellion. His feelings for Alaska become more complicated as he learns about her struggles. A tragic event leaves Miles overwhelmed by grief and questions about responsibility. The novel explores love, loss, guilt, friendship, and growing up.

GROUP 4

1. The Kite Runner — Khaled Hosseini

Published: 2003

Amir and Hassan grow up together in Afghanistan and form a close friendship. After Amir fails to protect Hassan during a violent assault, he becomes consumed by guilt. Years later, he returns to Afghanistan and discovers that the consequences of his past are still affecting him. The novel includes sexual violence, war, discrimination, strong language, and disturbing scenes. It explores friendship, betrayal, guilt, family, forgiveness, and redemption.

2. Kingdom of Ash — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2018

Aelin is imprisoned while her friends and allies fight to save her kingdom. Her companions gather armies and prepare for an enormous final battle. The characters experience imprisonment, torture, violence, loss, and difficult sacrifices. The book also contains sexual content, profanity, and other mature themes. It focuses on courage, friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, hope, and fighting for freedom.

3. The Bluest Eye — Toni Morrison

Published: 1970

Pecola believes that blue eyes would make her beautiful in a society that favors white features. She grows up experiencing racism, poverty, neglect, and emotional isolation. Her situation becomes increasingly traumatic when she suffers severe abuse within her family. The disturbing experiences eventually have a devastating effect on her mental health. Morrison uses her story to explore racism, beauty standards, abuse, trauma, and identity.

4. A Court of Frost and Starlight — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2018

Feyre and her friends try to recover after surviving a devastating war. They return home and celebrate the Winter Solstice while attempting to rebuild their lives. Although the war is over, the characters continue to experience emotional and psychological effects from it. The book includes sexual references, mature relationships, profanity, and references to previous violence. It focuses mainly on healing, friendship, love, recovery, and rebuilding.

5. Water for Elephants — Sara Gruen

Published: 2006

Jacob becomes a veterinarian for a traveling circus during the Great Depression. He falls in love with Marlena, who is married to the violent circus manager August. The circus environment exposes Jacob to animal cruelty, violence, alcohol, and dangerous relationships. Jacob and Marlena try to escape August while protecting themselves and the animals. The novel explores love, abuse, survival, friendship, and the harshness of circus life.

GROUP 5

1. The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood

Published: 1985

Offred is forced to live as a Handmaid in the oppressive society of Gilead. Her body is controlled by the government because women are valued mainly for their ability to have children. She secretly remembers her family and searches for ways to regain her freedom. The novel contains sexual violence, forced reproduction, physical punishment, and religious extremism. It explores oppression, power, gender, freedom, and resistance.

2. Milk and Honey — Rupi Kaur

Published: 2014

Kaur's poetry collection explores love, heartbreak, relationships, trauma, and healing. Some poems describe sexual experiences, abuse, and the pain caused by unhealthy relationships. The collection follows a journey from suffering toward self-acceptance and recovery. Its short poems use simple language to express intense emotional experiences. The book focuses on resilience, self-love, healing, sexuality, and personal growth.

3. A Clash of Kings — George R. R. Martin

Published: 1998

Westeros is divided as several rulers fight for control of the kingdom. Characters form alliances and betray one another while trying to survive the war. Jon Snow faces threats beyond the Wall, while Daenerys builds her power elsewhere. The story contains graphic violence, sexual violence, incest, death, and other mature content. It explores power, ambition, loyalty, betrayal, war, and survival.

4. The Hate U Give — Angie Thomas

Published: 2017

Starr's life changes when she witnesses Khalil, her childhood friend, being shot by a police officer. She struggles to process his death while seeing racism and injustice discussed in the media and at school. She eventually decides to speak publicly, even though doing so creates danger and pressure. The book contains profanity, drug references, police violence, and mature discussions about relationships. It explores racism, identity, justice, friendship, courage, and social change.

5. A Stolen Life — Jaycee Dugard

Published: 2011

Jaycee Dugard describes being kidnapped at eleven and held captive for eighteen years. She recounts the abuse and isolation she experienced while separated from her family. She also describes becoming a mother during her captivity and protecting her children as best she could. After being rescued, she begins the difficult process of recovering from years of trauma. The memoir focuses on survival, resilience, family, trauma, and rebuilding her future.

GROUP 6

1. Empire of Storms — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2016

Aelin returns to Terrasen and prepares for a dangerous war against powerful enemies. She gathers allies and tries to protect her kingdom while dealing with threats from within and outside it. The characters experience violence, imprisonment, betrayal, and painful sacrifices. The novel also contains explicit sexual content, profanity, and mature romantic themes. It explores love, loyalty, friendship, power, sacrifice, and war.

2. The Kite Runner — Khaled Hosseini

Published: 2003

Amir and Hassan are childhood friends whose lives are changed by violence and betrayal. Amir's failure to help Hassan leaves him with deep guilt that follows him into adulthood. After building a life in America, Amir returns to Afghanistan to face the consequences of his past. The story includes sexual violence, war, discrimination, strong language, and religious themes. It explores friendship, family, guilt, forgiveness, redemption, and responsibility.

3. The Bluest Eye — Toni Morrison

Published: 1970

Pecola believes that having blue eyes would make her beautiful and worthy of love. She lives in a racist society that constantly reinforces harmful ideas about appearance. Poverty, neglect, and family problems make her childhood extremely difficult. She also suffers sexual abuse, which contributes to her psychological collapse. The novel examines racism, beauty standards, poverty, abuse, trauma, and identity.

4. A Court of Wings and Ruin — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2017

Feyre secretly returns to the Spring Court to gather information about her enemies. She works with Rhysand and the other courts to prepare for a devastating war. The characters face violence, imprisonment, loss, and difficult sacrifices. The story also contains explicit sexual content, profanity, and references to abuse. It explores love, loyalty, courage, friendship, freedom, and survival.

5. Thirteen Reasons Why — Jay Asher

Published: 2007

Clay receives recordings from Hannah explaining the events that affected her before her death. She describes bullying, relationships, sexual experiences, and moments when she felt increasingly isolated. Clay listens to her story while trying to understand what happened and whether things could have been different. The book contains suicide, sexual assault, drugs, alcohol, and strong language. It explores grief, responsibility, bullying, guilt, and the consequences of people's actions.

GROUP 7

1. Kingdom of Ash — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2018

Aelin is imprisoned while her friends fight to protect their kingdom.
Her allies gather forces for a final war against their enemies.
The characters face torture, violence, death, loss, and enormous personal sacrifices.
The novel also contains sexual content, profanity, and other mature themes.
It explores courage, friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, hope, and freedom.

2. Looking for Alaska — John Green

Published: 2005

Miles goes to boarding school hoping to escape his ordinary life.
He becomes friends with Alaska and experiences romance, drinking, smoking, and teenage rebellion.
He develops strong feelings for her and becomes increasingly concerned about her emotional struggles.
After a tragic event, Miles struggles with grief, guilt, and questions about responsibility.
The novel explores love, loss, friendship, mental health, and growing up.

3. The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood

Published: 1985

Offred lives in Gilead, where women are stripped of their freedom and controlled by the government.
She is forced into reproductive servitude as a Handmaid for a powerful family.
She secretly remembers her old life and searches for ways to resist.
The story contains sexual violence, forced reproduction, physical punishment, and disturbing religious themes.
It explores oppression, gender inequality, freedom, power, and resistance.

4. Tower of Dawn — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2017

Chaol travels to another kingdom to seek treatment for his injuries.
He meets Yrene, a healer who initially distrusts him because of his past.
Together, they uncover a dangerous threat that could affect the entire world.
The story contains violence, mature relationships, sexual references, and discussions of trauma.
It explores healing, forgiveness, friendship, romance, politics, and courage.

5. Water for Elephants — Sara Gruen

Published: 2006

Jacob becomes a veterinarian for a traveling circus during the Great Depression.
He falls in love with Marlena, whose husband is violent and controlling.
Jacob witnesses cruelty toward both people and animals within the circus.
The story also contains sexual situations, alcohol, profanity, and violent scenes.
It explores love, abuse, survival, friendship, and the difficult life of circus performers.

GROUP 8

1. A Court of Frost and Starlight — Sarah J. Maas

Published: 2018

Feyre and her friends are recovering from the trauma of a major war. They return home and celebrate the Winter Solstice while trying to rebuild their lives. The characters continue to deal with emotional scars left by violence and loss. The book contains sexual references, mature relationships, profanity, and discussions connected to previous trauma. It focuses on healing, friendship, love, recovery, and rebuilding.

2. Thirteen Reasons Why — Jay Asher

Published: 2007

Clay receives recordings that Hannah made before her death. Through them, she explains how bullying, relationships, rumors, and traumatic experiences affected her. Clay follows her story while trying to understand the choices she made and his own role in her life. The novel includes suicide, sexual assault, drugs, alcohol, and strong language. It explores grief, guilt, bullying, responsibility, and the effects of our actions on others.

3. A Clash of Kings — George R. R. Martin

Published: 1998

Several rulers compete for the Iron Throne while Westeros is consumed by war. Political alliances shift constantly as characters fight for power and survival. Jon Snow faces threats beyond the Wall while Daenerys attempts to build an army. The novel contains graphic violence, sexual content, rape, incest, and strong language. It explores ambition, power, betrayal, loyalty, war, and survival.

4. Milk and Honey — Rupi Kaur

Published: 2014

The collection uses poetry to explore love, heartbreak, trauma, sexuality, and relationships. Some poems refer to sexual violence, abuse, and painful personal experiences. The book follows an emotional journey from suffering toward healing and self-acceptance. Kaur's short poems make complex emotions easy to understand while still addressing mature subjects. The collection ultimately focuses on resilience, self-worth, healing, and personal growth.

5. The Hate U Give — Angie Thomas

Published: 2017

Starr witnesses her childhood friend Khalil being killed by a police officer. She faces grief, racism, police violence, protests, and pressure to tell the truth about what happened. At school, Starr also struggles with being one of the few Black students and with hiding parts of herself. The novel includes profanity, drug references, sexual discussions, and mature social issues. It explores racism, identity, justice, friendship, courage, and the power of speaking out.