

## Favorite Books



**My short-list canon of classics includes the following:**

Homer, the Fitzgerald translation of *The Odyssey* and the Reck translation of *The Iliad*.

The Dialogues of Plato

Dante's *Inferno*

Shakespeare

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

Boswell's *Life of Johnson*

Goethe, *Faust*, parts I and II

Proust, *Remembrance of Things Past*

Ibsen, plays

Tolstoy, some of the short fiction

Kafka, *Metamorphosis*

Joyce, *Ulysses*

Borges, *Ficciones*, and *El Aleph*

**I also recommend the following, in no particular order:**

Virgil, *The Aeneid*

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and *Troilus and Cressida*

Sir Thomas Browne, works

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

John Milton, especially *Lycidas* and *Samson Agonistes*

Moliere, works

Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Confessions*

David Hume, works

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Jane Austen, *Persuasion*

Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*

Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*

John Stuart Mill, *Autobiography*

Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*

Turgenev, *On the Eve*

Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, others

Joseph Conrad, *Nostromo*, *Victory*, others

Henry James, *The Golden Bowl*, some of the short fiction

August Strindberg, plays

Franz Kafka, assorted works

Thomas Mann, *Buddenbrooks*

Hermann Broch, *The Death of Virgil*

Virginia Woolf, assorted works

Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*

William Faulkner, *Light in August*, *Absalom, Absalom*, others

Raymond Chandler, works

Pramoedya Toer, *This Earth of Mankind*

**For contemporary fiction, I recommend the following assortment:**

again in no particular order:

Haruki Murakami, *Hard-Boiled Wonderland*, *Wild Sheep Chase*

Michel Tournier, *Friday*, *The Four Wise Men*

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Love in the Age of Cholera*, *Notice of a Kidnapping*, *Living In Order to Tell It*

Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*, *Executioner's Song*, *Oswald's Tale*, and his book on the astronauts

Anne Tyler, *Breathing Lessons*

Wallace Stegner, *Angle of Repose*

Robert Bolano, *The Savage Detectives*

Margaret Atwood, *Cat's Eye*, *The Handmaid's Tale*

Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

Peter Ackroyd, *Hawksmoor*

John Fowles, *The Magus* (although the ending falls apart)

Anthony Burgess, *Autobiography*

Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*

Alasdair Gray, *Lanark*

Peter Hoeg, *Smilla's Sense of Snow*

Patrick Suskind, *The Perfume*

Georges Perec, *Life: A User's Manual*

Italo Calvino, *The Baron in the Trees, Invisible Cities*

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

V.S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River, A Turn in the South, Among the Believers*

Keri Hulme, *The Bone People*

Vikram Seth, *A Suitable Boy*

Naguib Mahfouz, assorted works

Johannes Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians* and *Disgrace*

Mario Vargas Llosa, *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter, War of the End of the World*

Ian McEwan, *Black Dogs, Atonement*

John Le Carre

Charles Palliser, *The Quincunx*

Cormac McCarthy, *Blood Meridian*

Ha Jin, *Waiting*

Juan Rolfo, *Pedro Paramo*

**In science fiction I like best:**

Olaf Stapledon, *Last and First Men, Starmaker*

Stanislaw Lem, *Solaris*

William Gibson, *Neuromancer*

Greg Bear, *Eon*

Dan Simmons, Hyperion set

Ursula LeGuinn, *The Lathe of Heaven*

Orson Scott Card, the Ender Trilogy

Frank Herbert, Dune Trilogy

/fir fantasy, my favorites are Tolkein, Lord of the Rings and Theodore White, Once and Future King>

**In poetry I like best:**

Emily Dickinson

John Keats

Wordsworth

Hoelderlin

Rilke

Blake

Tennyson

Neruda

Wallace Stevens

