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*


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