

Year 1 – The Ancient World and the Roots of Western Civilization

Theme: Order in creation, heroism, and the search for the Truth.

Month	Classic (Great Book)	Good Book	Spiritual Reading Suggestion
November	<i>Greek Mythology</i>	<i>The Bronze Bow</i> — Elizabeth George Speare	<i>Introduction to the Devout Life</i> — St. Francis de Sales
December	<i>Greek Tragedies</i> (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides)	<i>Roman Britain Trilogy</i> — Sutcliff	<i>The Way of Perfection</i> — St. Teresa of Ávila
January	<i>Iliad (review) and Odyssey</i> - Homer	<i>The Hobbit</i> - Tolkien	<i>Confessions</i> — St. Augustine
February	<i>Plato: Apology, Crito, Phaedo, Symposium</i>	<i>Till We Have Faces</i> — C.S. Lewis	<i>On the Teacher</i> — St. Augustine
March	<i>Aristotle: Ethics</i>	<i>Little Women, Little Men</i> - Louisa May Alcott	<i>Life of Antony</i> — St. Athanasius <i>Rules of St. Benedict and St. Basil</i>
April	<i>The Aeneid</i> — Virgil	<i>Ben Hur</i> - Lew Wallace	<i>Everlasting Man</i> – Chesterton
May	<i>Metamorphoses</i> - Ovid	<i>The Children of Odin</i> — Padraic Colum	<i>City of God (continuing)</i> — St. Augustine
June	<i>Plutarch's Lives</i>	<i>Winnie the Pooh</i> – A.A. Milne	<i>The Sayings of the Desert Fathers</i> - Benedicta Ward <i>Conferences</i> - Cassian
July	<i>Odes</i> - Horace	<i>The Once and Future King</i> — T.H. White	<i>Christ the Ideal of the Monk</i> — Columba Marmion
August	<i>Georgics</i> - Virgil	<i>The Blue Flower</i> - Van Dyke	<i>Confessions of St. Patrick</i> <i>On Christian Doctrine</i> - Augustine
September	<i>Marcus Aurelius: Meditations</i>	<i>Ballad of the White Horse</i> – Chesterton	<i>Spiritual Exercises</i> — St. Ignatius of Loyola
October	<i>The New Testament (Gospels)</i>	<i>Quo Vadis?</i> -Henryk Sienkiewicz	<i>On the Incarnation</i> - St. Athanasius <i>Redemptor Hominis</i> – John Paul II

Others: Horatius at the Bridge (Macaulay), Julius Caesar (Shakespeare), Cicero, Confessions of St. Patrick, Euclid's Geometry, Work on Latin/Greek, Fabiola (Wiseman), Herodotus, Thucydides, Evagrius, Plotinus, Macarius, Cappadocian Fathers and other Fathers of the Church

What is the human person like, made in the image and likeness of God?

How does the pagan quest for virtue and truth prepare the soul for the coming of Christ?

How does Christ's coming, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and participation in grace fulfill and elevate the soul's natural desire for truth, beauty, and goodness?

Year 2 – Christendom and the Medieval Mind

Theme: Faith seeking understanding; love ordering civilization toward God

Month	Classic	Good Book	Spiritual Reading Suggestion
November	<i>Consolation of Philosophy;</i> <i>Philosophy of Music</i> - Boethius	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> — Kenneth Grahame	<i>Cloud of Unknowing</i> — anonymous
December	<i>Beowulf</i>	<i>The Story of Rolf and the</i> <i>Viking Bow</i> — Allen French	<i>The Imitation of Christ</i> — Thomas à Kempis
January	<i>The Song of Roland</i>	<i>Robin Hood</i> (Pyle) <i>Sir Gawain and the Green</i> <i>Knight</i> (trans. Tolkien)	<i>The Mirror of Charity</i> — St. Aelred of Rievaulx
February	<i>Dante: Inferno, Purgatorio</i>	<i>Macbeth- Shakespeare</i> <i>The Pied Piper of Hamelin</i>	<i>On Purgatory</i> - Catherine of Genoa
March	<i>Dante: Paradiso</i>	<i>The Secret Garden</i> – Burnett	<i>On Loving God</i> - St. Bernard of Clairvaux
April	<i>The Golden Legend</i> - Voragine	<i>The Door in the Wall</i> - D'Angeli	<i>Song of Songs</i> <i>Commentaries</i> - Origen and Bernard
May	<i>Proslogion</i> – Anselm	<i>Ivanhoe</i> — Walter Scott	<i>Faith & Reason</i> — Pope St. John Paul II
June	<i>Summa Theologiae</i> – (sections) – Thomas Aquinas	<i>Master of Hestviken</i> - Sigrid Undset	<i>The Great Divorce</i> - C.S. Lewis
July	<i>El Cantar de Mio Cid</i>	<i>The Talisman</i> - Walter Scott	<i>St. Catherine of Siena: Dialogue</i>
August	<i>Dream of the Rood, English</i> <i>Mystery and Morality Plays</i>	<i>Puck of Pook's Hill</i> — Rudyard Kipling	<i>Ecclesiastical History of the English</i> <i>People</i> — Bede the Venerable
September	<i>Decameron</i> – Boccaccio <i>Canterbury Tales</i> (review)	<i>The Princess and the Goblin-</i> MacDonald	<i>Life of St. Francis</i> - Bonaventure <i>Treatise on Preaching</i> - Humbert
October	<i>Utopia</i> - St. Thomas More	<i>Joan of Arc</i> – Twain	<i>Sadness of Christ</i> — Thomas More <i>Spiritual Combat</i> - Scupoli

Others: Peter Chrysologous, John Damascene, Cassiodorus, Pseudodionysius, Scivias (Hildegard von Bingen), Revelations (Julian of Norwich), reread Kristen Lavransdatter (Undset).

How do faith, beauty, and reason harmonize in the medieval imagination?

How does sacramental Catholic and Christian worldview sustain people in times of trials?

In light of Creation and the Fall, how does the union of faith and government create the possibility of human flourishing, but also tend towards complacency and abuse of power?

Year 3 – Reformation and the Baroque

Theme: Man, freedom, the role of grace, and discovery of self.

Month	Classic	Good Book	Spiritual Reading Suggestion
November	<i>Don Quixote</i> — Cervantes	<i>Prince and the Pauper</i> - Twain	<i>The Interior Castle</i> — St. Teresa of Ávila
December	<i>Othello</i> - Shakespeare <i>Hamlet</i> – Shakespeare	<i>Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> - Victor Hugo	<i>The Ascent of Mount Carmel</i> — St. John of the Cross
January	<i>Much Ado about Nothing, The Tempest</i> - Shakespeare	<i>The Three Musketeers</i> — Dumas	<i>Memorial de la vida cristiana</i> – Luis de Granada
February	<i>Paradise Lost</i> — Milton	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> — Defoe	<i>Summa - Selections on Sin and Grace</i> - St. Thomas Aquinas
March	<i>Essays</i> — Montaigne	<i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> - Bunyan <i>Pilgrim's Regress</i> - Lewis	<i>Ascent to the Mind of God</i> - St. Robert Bellarmine
April	<i>The Betrothed</i> — Manzoni	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> — Swift	<i>Treatise on the Love of God</i> - St. Francis de Sales
May	<i>Bacon: Essays / New Atlantis</i>	<i>Micah Clarke, The White Company</i> — Conan Doyle	<i>Autobiography of St. Margaret Mary</i>
June	<i>Donne: Holy Sonnets</i> <i>Poetry of George Herbert</i>	<i>The Man Who Was Thursday</i> — Chesterton	<i>Letters of St. Ignatius Loyola</i>
July	<i>Pascal: Pensées</i>	<i>Treasure Island</i> – Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>Abandonment to Divine Providence</i> — de Caussade
August	<i>Tartuffe</i> - Molière	<i>Fairy Tales</i> – Charles Perrault	<i>True Devotion or the Secret of the Rosary</i> – Louis de Montfort
September	<i>Life is a Dream – La Vida es Sueño</i> – Pedro Calderon de la Barca	<i>The Vicar of Wakefield</i> — Goldsmith	<i>The Screwtape Letters</i> — C.S. Lewis
October	<i>Democracy in America</i> – Alexis de Tocqueville	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> — Dickens	<i>Introduction to Christianity</i> — Ratzinger

Others: Kant, John Locke, Erasmus, other Shakespeare, Diary of Samuel Pepys, works of Ben Johnson, early scientific revolution works (Newton, Harvey, etc.), Autobiography of Ben Franklin

How did the Renaissance change our understanding of man's role as a creature of a provident and loving Father?

What happens to man and culture when reason and faith separate — and how can they be reconciled?

In what ways does Enlightenment thinking further the philosophical understanding of inherent human dignity?

Year 4 – Enlightenment to Modernity

Theme: The human person, revolution and change, and the longing for the infinite

Month	Classic	Good Book	Suggested Spiritual Reading
November	<i>Rousseau: Confessions/Emile</i>	<i>David Copperfield</i> — Dickens	<i>The Hound of Heaven</i> — Thompson
December	<i>Dr. Faustus – Marlow and Goethe: Faust (Part I)</i>	<i>Scarlet Pimpernel</i> - Orczy	<i>On the Christian Meaning of Suffering</i> — JPII
January	<i>Wordsworth & Coleridge: Lyrical Ballads</i>	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> — Austen	<i>Soul of the Apostolate</i> – Chautard
February	<i>Frankenstein</i> — Mary Shelley	<i>The Warden</i> — Anthony Trollope	<i>Development of Christian Doctrine</i> - Newman
March	<i>The Brothers Grimm (Tales)</i>	<i>Jane Eyre</i> - Charlotte Brontë	<i>The Preventative System</i> – St. John Bosco
April	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> — Hawthorne	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> — Emily Brontë	<i>The Cost of Discipleship</i> - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
May	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> — Twain	<i>Silas Marner</i> - George Eliot	<i>Mere Christianity</i> — Lewis
June	<i>Moby Dick</i> — Melville	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> - Austen	<i>Orthodoxy</i> - G.K. Chesterton
July	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> — Dostoevsky	<i>Up from Slavery</i> – Booker T. Washington	<i>Story of a Soul</i> – Therese of Lisieux
August	<i>Anna Karenina</i> — Tolstoy	<i>Pinocchio</i> - Carlo Collodi	<i>The Reed of God</i> - Caryl Houselander
September	<i>Count of Monte Cristo</i> - Dumas	<i>Les Misérables</i> — Victor Hugo	<i>Dream of Gerontius</i> — John Henry Newman
October	<i>Picture of Dorian Gray</i> - Oscar Wilde	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> - Verne	<i>Life of Christ</i> — Fulton Sheen

Others: Kant, John Locke, Origin of Species (Darwin), Dracula (Bram Stoker), Walden (Thoreau), War and Peace (Tolstoy), Middlemarch (Eliot)

How does romanticism's hunger for human and societal perfection reveal the human soul's need for God?

Why do we look for justice, redemption, and resolution in literature?

What is the difference between the Christian tradition of becoming like God through grace and pretending we are the god of our life?

Year 5 – Modernity's Renewal

Theme: Looking for light in darkness and rediscovering the sacramental vision in the modern world

Month	Classic	Good Book	Suggested Spiritual Reading
November	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> — Dostoevsky	<i>Fairy Tales</i> – Hans Christian Anderson	<i>The Divine Pity</i> - Vann
December	<i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i> — Tolstoy	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> — Dickens	<i>Rerum Novarum</i> — Leo XIII
January	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> — Evelyn Waugh	<i>Little House</i> – Laura Ingles Wilder	<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> — Vatican II
February	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> - Remarque	<i>The Power and the Glory</i> — Graham Greene	<i>He Leadeth Me</i> - Walter Ciszek
March	<i>1984</i> or <i>Animal Farm</i> - Orwell	<i>Space Trilogy</i> — C.S. Lewis	<i>Transformation in Christ</i> - Von Hildebrand
April	<i>The Stranger</i> — Camus	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> - Montgomery	<i>Crossing the Threshold of Hope</i> — JP II
May	<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> — Alan Paton	<i>The Borrowers</i> – Norton	<i>The Joyful Mystery</i> — Romano Guardini
June	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	<i>The Chosen</i> — Chaim Potok	<i>Spe Salvi</i> — Benedict XVI
July	<i>Wasteland, Four Quartets</i> – T.S. Eliot	<i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> - C.S. Lewis	<i>Learning in Wartime</i> — C.S. Lewis
August	<i>The Diary of a Country Priest</i> — Bernanos	<i>Mr. Blue</i> - Myles Connelly	<i>Jesus of Nazareth</i> — Benedict XVI
September	<i>In This House of Brede</i> — Rumer Godden	<i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> - Annie Dillard	<i>Theology and Sanity</i> - Sheed
October	<i>The Lord of the Rings, selections of Silmarillion</i> — J.R.R. Tolkien	<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i> – Kate DiCamillo	<i>The Fulfillment of All Desire</i> — Ralph Martin

Others: *Letters to a Young Poet* (Rilke), Josef Pieper, *Long Loneliness* (Dorothy Day), Gerard Manley Hopkins, Jayber Crow (Wendell Berry), *Theology of the Body*, *Left to Tell* (Immacule Ilibagiza), *These Lovely Bones*, Flannery O'Connor

How can modern man recover a sacramental imagination, seeing the world as charged with the grandeur of God?

Where does hope break into the challenges of the modern world?

How can memories of promises and past graces strengthen our identity as sons/daughters of a good God?

What is the call of the Christian in the darkest times?