

# The Lifetime Reading Plan

by Clifton Fadiman (3rd ed., 1988)

## The Beginning

1. Homer. *The Iliad*.
2. Homer. *The Odyssey*.
3. Herodotus. *The Histories*.
4. Thucydides. *The History of the Peloponnesian War*.
5. Plato. Selected Works.
6. Aristotle. *Ethics*; *Politics*.
7. Aeschylus. *The Oresteia*.
8. Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex*; *Oedipus at Colonus*; *Antigone*
9. Euripides. *Alcestis*; *Medea*; *Hippolytus*; *Trojan Women*; *Electra*; *Bacchae*.
10. Lucretius. *Of the Nature of Things*.
11. Virgil. *The Aeneid*.
12. Marcus Aurelius. *Meditations*.

## The Middle Ages

13. Saint Augustine. *Confessions*.
14. Dante Alighieri. *The Divine Comedy*.
15. Geoffrey Chaucer. *The Canterbury Tales*.

## Plays

16. William Shakespeare. Complete Works.
17. Molière. Selected Plays.
18. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. *Faust*.
19. Henrik Ibsen. Selected Plays.
20. George Bernard Shaw. Selected Plays and Prefaces.
21. Anton Chekhov. *Uncle Vanya*; *Three Sisters*; *The Cherry Orchard*.
22. Eugene O'Neill. *Mourning Becomes Electra*; *The Iceman Cometh*; *Long Day's Journey into Night*.
23. Samuel Beckett. *Waiting for Godot*; *Endgame*; *Krapp's Last Tape*.
24. *Contemporary Drama*, edited by E. Bradlee Watson and Benfield Pressey.

## Narratives

25. John Bunyan. *Pilgrim's Progress*.
26. Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe*.
27. Jonathan Swift. *Gulliver's Travels*; *A Modest Proposal*; *Meditations upon a Broomstick*; *Resolutions when I Come to be Old*.
28. Laurence Sterne. *Tristram Shandy*.
29. Henry Fielding. *Tom Jones*.
30. Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*; *Emma*.
31. Emily Brontë. *Wuthering Heights*.
32. William Makepeace Thackeray. *Vanity Fair*.
33. Charles Dickens. *Pickwick Papers*; *David Copperfield*; *Bleak House*; *Great Expectations*; *Hard Times*; *Our Mutual Friend*; *Little Dorrit*.
34. George Eliot. *The Mill on the Floss*; *Middlemarch*.
35. Lewis Carroll. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*; *Through the Looking-Glass*.

36. Thomas Hardy. *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
37. Joseph Conrad. *Nostramo*.
38. E. M. Forster. *A Passage to India*.
39. James Joyce. *Ulysses*.
40. Virginia Woolf. *Mrs. Dalloway; To the Lighthouse; Orlando; The Waves*.
41. D. H. Lawrence. *Sons and Lovers; Women in Love*.
42. Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World; Collected Essays*.
43. George Orwell. *Animal Farm; Nineteen Eighty-Four*.
44. Thomas Mann. *The Magic Mountain*.
45. Franz Kafka. *The Trial; The Castle; Selected Short Stories*.
46. François Rabelais. *Gargantua and Pantagruel*.
47. Voltaire. *Candide and Other Works*.
48. Stendhal. *The Red and the Black*.
49. Honoré de Balzac. *Père Goriot; Eugénie Grandet*.
50. Gustave Flaubert. *Madame Bovary*.
51. Marcel Proust. *Remembrance of Things Past*.
52. André Malraux. *Man's Fate*.
53. Albert Camus. *The Plague; The Stranger*.
54. Edgar Allan Poe. *Short Stories and Other Works*.
55. Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The Scarlet Letter; Selected Tales*.
56. Herman Melville. *Moby Dick; Bartleby the Scrivener*.
57. Mark Twain. *Huckleberry Finn*.
58. Henry James. *The Ambassadors*.
59. William Faulkner. *The Sound and the Fury; As I Lay Dying*.
60. Ernest Hemingway. *Short Stories*.
61. Saul Bellow. *The Adventures of Augie March; Herzog; Humboldt's Gift*.
62. Miguel de Cervantes de Saavedra. *Don Quixote*.
63. Jorge Luis Borges. *Labyrinths Dreamtigers*.
64. Gabriel Garcia Márquez. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
65. Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol. *Dead Souls*.
66. Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenev. *Fathers and Sons*.
67. Feodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. *Crime and Punishment; The Brothers Karamazov*.
68. Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy. *War and Peace*.
69. Vladimir Nabokov. *Lolita; Pale Fire; Speak, Memory*.
70. Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn. *The First Circle; Cancer Ward*.

### **Philosophy, Psychology, Politics, Essays**

71. Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan*.
72. John Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*.
73. David Hume. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.
74. John Stuart Mill. *On Liberty*.
75. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*.
76. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche. *Thus Spake Zarathustra; Selected Other Works*.
77. Sigmund Freud. *Selected Works*.
78. Niccolò Machiavelli. *The Prince*.
79. Michel Eyquem de Montaigne. *Selected Essays*.
80. René Descartes. *Discourse on Method*.
81. Blaise Pascal. *Thoughts (Pensées)*.

82. Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*.
83. Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Selected Works*.
84. Henry David Thoreau. *Walden; Civil Disobedience*.
85. William James. *The Principles of Psychology; Pragmatism and Four Essays from The Meaning of Truth; The Varieties of Religious Experience*.
86. John Dewey. *Human Nature and Conduct*.
87. George Santayana. *Skepticism and Animal Faith; Selected Other Works*.

## **Poetry**

88. John Donne. *Selected Works*.
89. John Milton. *Paradise Lost; Lycidas; On the Morning of Christ's Nativity; Sonnets; Areopagitica*.
90. William Blake. *Selected Works*.
91. William Wordsworth. *The Prelude; Selected Shorter Poems; Preface to the Lyrical Ballads, 1800*.
92. Samuel Taylor Coleridge. *The Ancient Mariner; Christabel; Kubla Khan; Biographia Literaria; Writings on Shakespeare*.
93. William Butler Yeats. *Collected Poems; Collected Plays; The Autobiography*.
94. T. S. Eliot. *Collected Poems, Collected Plays*.
95. Walt Whitman. *Selected Poems; Democratic Vistas; Preface to the first issue of Leaves of Grass (1855); A Backward Glance O'er Travel'd Roads*.
96. Robert Frost. *Collected Poems*.
97. *Poets of the English Language*, edited by W.H. Auden and Norman Holmes Pearson.
98. *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*, edited by Richard Ellmann and Robert O'Clair.

## **History, Biography, Autobiography**

99. *Basic Documents in American History*, edited by Richard B. Morris; *The Federalist Papers*, edited by Clinton Rossiter.
100. Jean Jacques Rousseau. *Confessions*.
101. James Boswell. *The Life of Samuel Johnson*.
102. Henry Adams. *The Education of Henry Adams*.
103. Fernand Braudel. *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II; Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century*.