The Grapes of Wrath  by John Steinbeck

After serving fours years in prison, Tom Joad is released only to find his family completely destitute during the Great Depression. Forced to leave their farm, the family moved west toward California. Stories of California’s land of plenty, however, prove to be far from true. The camps are overcrowded and work is scarce. Can this starving family survive the “Grapes of Wrath.”
R.R., Senior

The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy  By Douglas Adams

Imagine being Arthur Dent, a young man living in a small English town and waking up to see a bulldozer there to tear down his house. To make a bad day worse, aliens come and warn the citizens of the world that the end has come. Then, a friend comes and gives Arthur the opportunity to live and go on adventures in faraway places in the galaxy. Will he go with his friend named Ford? What adventures would they go on? Find out Arthur’s decision in Douglas Adams’ The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy.
T.M., Freshman

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

Imagine a hard life of endless days living on just enough food to survive in a horrible London workhouse where you are treated like it would be better if you just didn’t exist. This is the life of the poor little orphan by the name of Oliver Twist. Upon being sent to live with Oliver is able to get his first glimpse of public life. Thinking that life there has nothing better in store for him he resolves to run away and sets off on his adventure into the harsh street life of London. Will Oliver be able to get along on his own? Will he be able to face the harsh realities of the real world?
S.S., Junior
**The Golden Compass** by Philip Pullman

In a dimension beyond our own, 11 year old Lyra Belacqua embarks on a dangerous journey to find her father and to discover the truth about a phenomenon of their world called Dust. *The Golden Compass*, the first in a trilogy, combines imagination with creativity as the plot culminates into a tale of love and adventure.

T.B., Senior

**Moll Flanders** by Daniel Defoe

Envision a world in which a person’s welfare rests solely on his or her shoulders. In this world, a person must fend for himself or herself without any assistance of the governing body. Daniel Defoe exemplified this world in his classic novel, *Moll Flanders*. The main character, Moll, must do just this: take care of herself in a country that cares nothing of her. This seamy side of life edifies the reader of the undertakings a person of this era pursued to create a life for himself or herself. Will Moll Survive in this world of loneliness? Find out for yourself in *Moll Flanders*.

E. R., Freshman

**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee

A Grown woman takes you through some of her childhood experiences and the knowledge that she gained from them with the help of her father. Will she be able to deal with her first encounters with racism and her father’s unwillingness to budge when it comes to what he believes is right?

S.S., Junior
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a little hobbit, is torn from his relaxed country lifestyle into a maelstrom of horror. Seduced into a quest of unknown dangers and new experiences, Bilbo faces fierce creatures and is confronted by the great dragon, Smaug.

K.B., Senior

The Beautiful and the Damned by F. Scott Fitzgerald

F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife, Zelda, had a relationship full of jealousy and arguments. This novel reveals the hardships in their lives, as the couple struggles to live “happily ever after.”

B. D., Senior

And Then There Were None (Ten Little Indians) by Agatha Christie

Ten strangers are invited to a private island, but the host never shows up! As the strangers get to know each other, someone is murdering them one-by-one. Who could have called this meeting of strangers, and who is killing them?

B.D., Senior

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
This passionate tale of the love between the plain, spirited Jane Eyre and the arrogant Mr. Rochester, has inspired many readers since its publication in 1847. This story of the heart involves scandal, triumph, and suspicion: what more could one ask of a masterpiece?
A.H., Senior

*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

Follow the narrator as he learns of the mysteriously devastating life of Starkfield native Ethan Frome, who suffered a tragic carriage accident twenty years ago. Can the curious narrator rescue Ethan Frome from his life-long misery, or will he be left to watch Frome’s life whither away?
M.W., Senior

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Guy Montag is a “firemen” who burns books for a living in America’s futuristic society. The people of this society do not read books, enjoy nature or spend time with themselves. Overwhelmed with the will to learn, Guy Montag goes against the norm of society, and begins to collect and read books. Now recognized as a trader to society, Guy must flee his town and run to a reservation where common American life of knowledge and nature still exists.
R.R., Senior

*The Time Machine* By H. G. Wells

The idea of time traveling boggles the mind of many. Many fiction and non-fiction manuscripts, based on time traveling, encase the reader’s mind into thinking he/she has actually gone into the future or past. Readers of H. G. Wells’ *The Time Machine* collide head-on with this puzzling proposal. Throughout this epic journey, the
reader must twist his/her mind to see the fiction intertwined with the reality of time traveling. While the reader drifts into the future, the world changes and the problems of the present seem trivial.

T.R., Freshman

2001: A Space Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke

What if the human race possessed the technology to travel to and set up colonies on other planets? Would we meet life with knowledge surpassing our own, or are we the only intelligent life within the vast expanse of space? Clarke answers these questions in distinctive and stirring ways within his novel 2001: A Space Odyssey. The astronaut David Bowman utilizes the technology to travel to Saturn on a mission to meet another civilization, and on this journey he becomes the intelligent life, evolving and surpassing what humans once were. While all of this occurs, there still seems to be a question yet not answered: one that affects human civilizations’ development—can all of humanity better itself through utilizing technology, or will this technology eventually destroy us? The author uses these questions in subtle ways to give the story a more compelling meaning.

E. R., Freshman

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass

By Lewis Carroll

Not many nonsense novels revolve so thoroughly around their characters’ madness. In other novels, such as the Dr. Seuss stories, many characters act incredibly sane; however, in Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, every character demonstrates some type of madness. “We’re all mad here. I’m mad. You’re mad,” (81; bk 2, ch. 6) so says the Cheshire Cat; however, very few creatures in wonderland realize their own madness, or the madness of others around them. Lewis Carroll uses his views of nineteenth-century England to bring out the madness of his characters.

R. W., Freshman
Imagine a crowded place with dark, dirty streets and crime lurking around every corner. In a world bursting with troubled lives and no champion to depend on, the public tends to turn to imaginary heroes as a channel for their problems. Fictional protagonists crawled out of the woodwork to try to satisfy the people, but none succeeded as one hawk-nosed detective did. Will Sherlock Holmes figure out who murdered Enoch Drebber and scrawled the word ‘revenge’ in blood over the body?

S.R., Freshman

Abraham Lincoln once said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” in reference to the American Civil War, during which the South split from the North, and bloody war erupted over issues of government and morals. The same type of tragedy unfolds in James Clavell’s Shogun, a novel about Japan in the 1600’s. A powerful daimyo, Ishido, begins to usurp power from Toranaga, another powerful daimyo. This division creates a bitter rift between the Japanese. The structure of Japan begins to crumble in this time— the government becoming corrupted and divided, assassinations and robberies breaking out between the opposing sides. People begin to question old morals, and one side decides to unleash gunpowder on the other for the first time. Will Japan be torn apart by war?

B.V., Freshman

“For one thing the mind is like the rectangle of canvas, a limited area however ingeniously you paint” (7; ch. 1). William Golding examines the average man and the events he experiences in his novel Free Fall. He attempts to find the link between the innocent child and the stagnant old man. The characters serve as his metaphors for
common feelings or common character s in a man’s life. His writing style and the events that happen in his novel express the author’s thoughts about life in general.
T.W. Sophomore

"I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will . . ." (350; ch. 23). This quote from Charlotte Brotné’s *Jane Eyre*, though moving today, might have created controversy when people of the nineteenth century read its words. Many women of that time would not even dare to utter these liberating words especially to a man. Though independence seldom characterized the women of the time, Charlotte Bronte made it a point to express her heroine’s sovereignty in life, love, and beauty. Bronte’s classic novel *Jane Eyre* encompasses the ideals of independence in marriage and of the beauty of the soul. Her title character and heroine, Jane Eyre, grows on these ideals. Bronte wishes to express that “Beauty is not only skin deep,” that beauty can bloom inside an independent soul. Bronte, able to express her views to the world through her unique heroine of *Jane Eyre*, ensnares readers into finding the beauty within themselves. By analyzing Charlotte Bronte’s life and by applying the Elements of Fiction to her novel *Jane Eyre*, the reader can interpret her view on romance and women in the nineteenth century.
C.S. Sophomore

"There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved.” Although this statement by George Sand seems frighteningly true in the fact that everyone does yearn for love, every person seems to have his or her own way of fulfilling it. Many people express their feelings through speaking; however, a few talented men and women possess the gift to speak their emotions through writing. One of these people, Emily Bronte, appeared to be one of the greatest authors of the nineteenth century. The presence of love all through Bronte’s life played a key role in her writing as she reflected this theme in many of her works. Unlike many other authors though, Emily did not restrict herself to one quality for inspiration. Along with the repeating emphasis of love, this woman revealed her vivid imagination and outgoing personality in all of her works, attracting people of all ways of life.
V.M. Sophomore
Out of the millions of novels that leave the printing press every year, only a few novels have become classics in American society and have survived the passage of time. Out of these classics, a small group of novels called satires exists. These novels effectively see the faults in society by providing fictional examples or variations of real-life events. *Darkness At Noon*, written by Arthur Koestler, has become one of the most cherished satires of the twentieth century, with people still discussing its importance sixty years after its publication. *Darkness At Noon* shows the reader how the Communist Party had strayed from its original purpose in its goal to become a major world power. In *Darkness At Noon*, the Communist Party arrests a faithful Communist named Rubashov during the Moscow Show Trials and falsely accuses him of plotting to kill Number 1 (Stalin) and of being a counter-revolutionary. In his cell, Rubashov questions the philosophy of the Communist Party and faces numerous trials where the Party interrogates and tortures him. With its imaginative story and decisive vocabulary, *Darkness At Noon* will captivate readers with Arthur Koestler’s life, with the Elements of Fiction, and with the various contradicting literary interpretations of this novel.

R.H. Sophomore

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“Then came the night of the first falling-star. Hundreds must have seen that line of flame high in the atmosphere.” (269: ch. 2) This appears in the novel *The War of the Worlds* by H.G Wells. Now imagine a man’s going out to find what fell from the sky that night and finding a hollow cylinder lying buried in the ground. Nobody knows what may be in the strange object that landed on Earth. This event begins the plot of H.G. Wells’ novel *The War of the Worlds*. Many may agree that H.G. Wells has a unique style of writing. Oftentimes he uses a brilliant method of describing a particular scene but does not become too descriptive and bore the reader. By analyzing H.G. Wells’ life and by applying the elements of fiction to his novel *The War of the Worlds*, the reader can interpret the author’s style, many interesting characteristics and his feelings about the topic of the novel.

C.E. Sophomore
Ben Franklin once stated, “Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of its filling a vacuum, it makes one.” Robert Louis Stevenson captures the essence of this quote by lavishly bestowing this characteristic upon Ebenezer Balfour, a forlorn, wealthy, yet miserly man who treacherously seizes his nephew’s inheritance, the boy’s only remaining memory of his tragically deceased parents. In *Kidnapped*, David Balfour’s uncle mercilessly forces him through a series of intricate and strenuous adventures expecting to murder David and accumulate his inheritance. Along with the help of his newly established companion Alan Breck, a man significantly opposite of David, the determined Balfour relentlessly manipulates his way through the deadly events he encounters. Stevenson’s resourceful life encouraged him to compose such an astonishing book containing pursuit and adventure; this adventurous novel earned Stevenson his reputation as one of the finest writers in British literature. By observing Robert Louis Stevenson’s elaborate life and by applying the elements of fiction to his novel *Kidnapped*, the reader can interpret Stevenson’s sense of adventure and his views of the world.

T.L. Sophomore