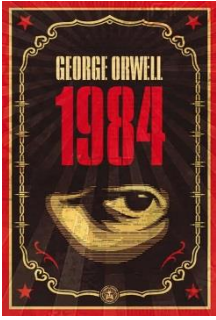


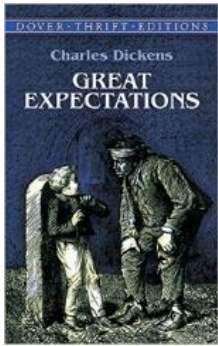
Independent Novel Choices English I PreAP/GT

1984 by George Orwell



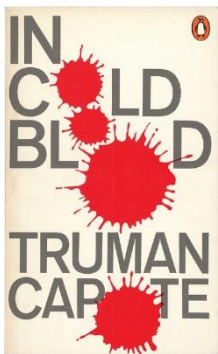
In George Orwell's *1984*, Winston Smith wrestles with oppression in Oceania, a place where the Party scrutinizes human actions with ever-watchful Big Brother. Defying a ban on individuality, Winston dares to express his thoughts in a diary and pursues a relationship with Julia. These criminal deeds bring Winston into the eye of the opposition, who then must reform the nonconformist. George Orwell's *1984* introduced the watchwords for life without freedom: BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens



A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor—these form a series of events that change the orphan Pip's life forever, as he eagerly abandons his humble origins to begin a new life as a gentleman. Dickens's haunting novel depicts Pip's education and development through adversity as he discovers the true nature of his great expectations. Published nine years before Dickens's death, it remains one of his most celebrated works.

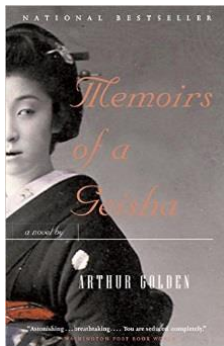
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote



On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues. As Truman Capote reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, he generates both mesmerizing suspense and astonishing empathy. **In Cold Blood** is a work that transcends its moment, yielding poignant insights into the nature of American violence.

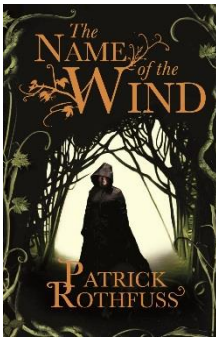
*nonfiction

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden



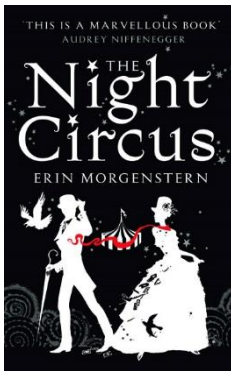
Speaking to us with the wisdom of age and in a voice at once haunting and startlingly immediate, Nitta Sayuri tells the story of her life as a geisha. It begins in a poor fishing village in 1929, when, as a nine-year-old girl with unusual blue-gray eyes, she is taken from her home and sold into slavery to a renowned geisha house. We witness her transformation as she learns the rigorous arts of the geisha: dance and music; wearing kimono, elaborate makeup, and hair; pouring sake to reveal just a touch of inner wrist; competing with a jealous rival for men's solicitude and the money that goes with it.

The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss



The riveting first-person narrative of a young man who grows to be the most notorious magician his world has ever seen. From his childhood in a troupe of traveling players, to years spent as a near-feral orphan in a crime-ridden city, to his daringly brazen yet successful bid to enter a legendary school of magic, *The Name of the Wind* is a masterpiece that transports readers into the body and mind of a wizard. It is a high-action novel written with a poet's hand, a powerful coming-of-age story of a magically gifted young man, told through his eyes: to read this book is to be the hero.

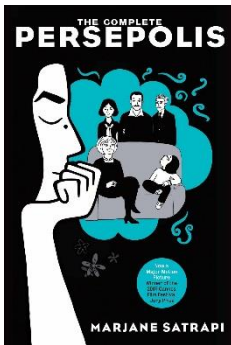
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern



The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night.

But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance.

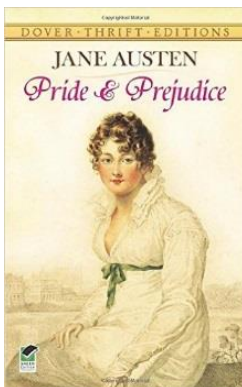
The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi



Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

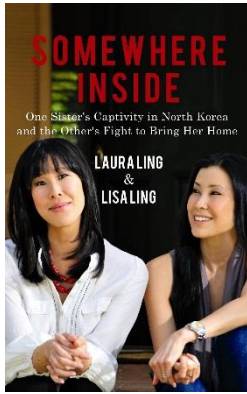
*nonfiction; graphic novel

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



Pride and Prejudice is the story of Elizabeth Bennet and her four sisters who are all unmarried. When the wealthy young gentleman, Charles Bingley, rents the nearby manor of Netherfield Park the opportunity to find a husband presents itself. While attending a ball the Bennets meet Mr. Bingley and his friend Mr. Darcy for the first time. Mr. Bingley and Jane, Elizabeth's older sister, form a quick friendship, while Mr. Darcy shows little interest in Elizabeth by refusing to dance with her. However in subsequent weeks Mr. Darcy finds himself increasingly attracted to Elizabeth and as the novel progresses the reader is made to ask will a romance between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth come to be.

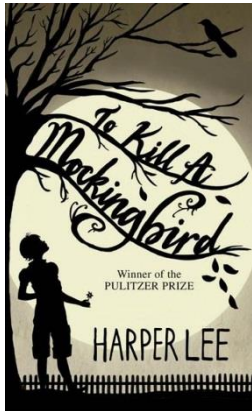
Somewhere Inside by Laura and Lisa Ling



Somewhere Inside is the electrifying, never-before-told story of Laura Ling's capture by the North Koreans in March 2009, and the efforts of her sister, journalist Lisa Ling, to secure Laura's release by former President Bill Clinton. This riveting true account of the first ever trial of an American citizen in North Korea's highest court carries readers deep inside the world's most secretive nation while it poignantly explores the powerful, inspiring bonds of sisterly love.

*nonfiction

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee



One of the best-loved stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than thirty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.