

A blurred photograph of a classroom with several wooden chairs and white desks arranged in rows.

How to Use

SPARKNOTES[™]

in the Classroom

Two veteran teachers
discuss their experiences
teaching with SparkNotes

EXCLUSIVELY FROM
BARNES & NOBLE

Discovering SparkNotes

by Marvin Terban

I'VE BEEN A TEACHER at the same school for forty years. I teach English, Latin, Public Speaking, and Theater, and I've taught Computer (when the screens were black and white), Current Events (when JFK was president), Geography (when Russia was part of the USSR), History (when there was less of it), and practically every other subject when I subbed for my absent colleagues. Before that, I was a college and high school student. So I think I know how things stand from both sides of the teacher's desk.

And if I've learned anything, I've learned these two truths:

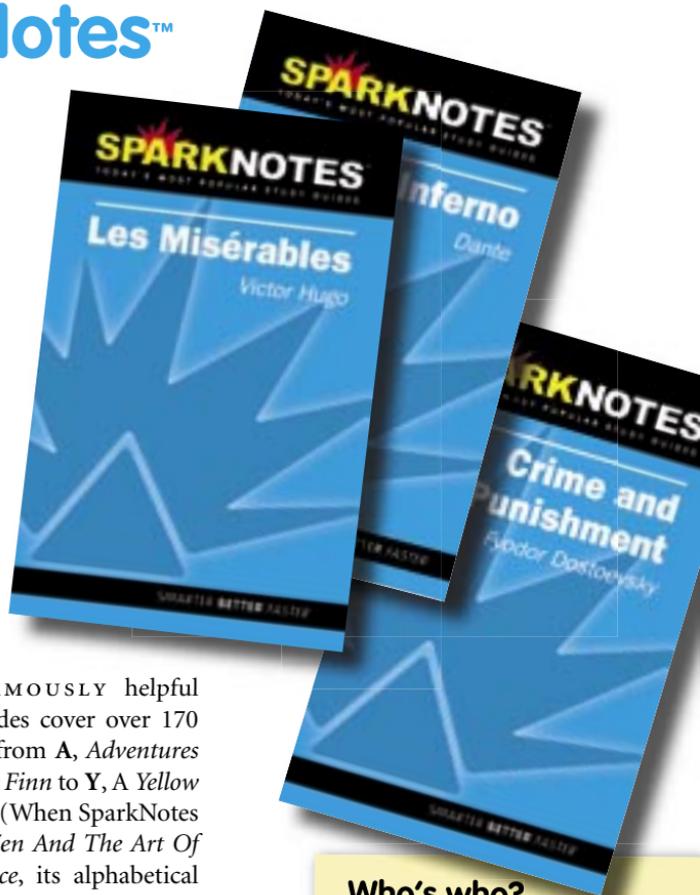
1. Teachers and their students are often overworked and need quality help to do what they have to do in the time they have to do it.
2. Teachers and their students have always found some of that help in study guides and supplemental materials.

This year I discovered SparkNotes. They're new, but they've quickly become "today's most popular study guides" because they're so well done. There's also a host of other terrific SparkNotes educational resources that can make better teachers and students of us all.

Marvin Terban is known as "Mr. English," "a master of wordplay," and "Dr. Grammar" on Scholastic.com. For forty years he has taught English, Latin, Theater, and other subjects to grades 5–12 at Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School in New York City. He has published over twenty-seven books on language arts and wordplay that are used in schools around the world. As an author and teacher, he has visited schools all over the United States, South America, Europe, and Japan. Mr. Terban tries to incorporate the latest educational materials into his teaching, so he's delighted to have discovered SparkNotes.



SparkNotes™ Study Guides



THESE ENORMOUSLY helpful little blue guides cover over 170 classic books from **A**, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to **Y**, *A Yellow Raft in the Blue Water*. (When SparkNotes puts out a guide on *Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance*, its alphabetical list will be complete from A to Z.)

The body of helpful information and thought-provoking ideas each slim volume contains is truly impressive. A quick glance at the Contents pages reveals how sensibly organized and comprehensive the guides are: Context; Plot Overview; Character List; Analyses of Major Characters; Themes, Motifs & Symbols; chapter-by-chapter Summary & Analysis; Important Quotations Explained; Key Facts; Study Questions; Suggested Essay Topics; a twenty-five-question Quiz; and Suggestions for Further Reading. These resources supplement, not substitute for, the reading assignment. They complement and support what you are doing in your classroom.

Who's who?

When the French names in *Les Misérables* make your students miserable, when the cast of Russian characters in *Crime and Punishment* seems like a crime that's punishing your class, and when the devilish denizens of Dante's *Inferno* make it the book from hell, SparkNotes study guides come to the rescue with detailed and easy-to-follow **Character Lists** and analyses that put them all neatly in their places.

Who wrote this and why?

The **Context** sections of SparkNotes study guides provide not only basic biographical facts about the authors, but also information about the times and places that motivated their writing. Your students will learn how, in the early 1850s, Harriet Beecher Stowe tried to convince her large Northern readership of the necessity of ending slavery in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; how the immense social upheaval in nineteenth-century France influenced Gustave Flaubert's hatred of middle-class values in *Madame Bovary*; why British author George Orwell, in 1948, warned of the evils of totalitarianism in 1984; and how the dramatist Euripides in fifth-century B.C. Greece explored the cult of Dionysus in *The Bacchae*.

- **Summaries** of every chapter and thorough **Analysis**
- Explanation of the key **Themes, Motifs, and Symbols**
- Detailed **Character Analysis**
- **Key Facts** about the work
- Author's historical **Context**
- Identification and explanation of **Important Quotations**
- A 25-question review **Quiz, Study Questions, and Essay Topics** to help students prepare for papers and tests

B
BARNES & NOBLE CLASSICS

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Harriet Beecher Stowe



INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY AMANDA CLAYBAUGH

Praise for SparkNotes from Teachers:

"I love SparkNotes! I was referred to them by the **head of our English department**. I am happy to have any of my students use SparkNotes. I am constantly amazed at how such a valuable resource can be available 24/7. Please don't ever change!"

—D. Stanley, English Teacher

"This is a wonderful website. I teach High School English for special needs students. It is wonderful to have a place to get information that breaks down these large novels into understandable language. Thanks for all the hard work."

—A Grateful Teacher

IN MY LATIN CLASSES, we discuss Homer's *Odyssey*. But only when I read the SparkNotes study guide on that book did I get a deeper understanding of some of its fundamental ideas such as "the power of cunning over strength" (that's me vs. my students) and "the pitfalls of temptation" (something many high school kids already know about). I've read Virgil's *Aeneid* for years with my classes, but the SparkNotes study guide on that book showed me new meanings in sayings I had been quoting almost since the Trojan War. **It's important every once in a while to have the cobwebs blown away to let fresh views in.**

Honestly, what teachers have the time to go as deeply as they'd like into the themes, motifs, and symbols of the books they assign? Where is the luxury of time to analyze the characters, explain the important quotations, or explore all the other fine, and often obscure, points? I remember trying to read tomes like *Crime and Punishment* (those Russian names!) and the *Iliad* (those Greek names!) in high school, and not understanding lots of stuff. And I was an A student! The chore of trudging through *A Tale of Two Cities* in high school turned me off to Dickens for years afterward. I didn't even want to go to London or Paris on my first trip to Europe. I wish I'd had the SparkNotes study guides then. **I could have gotten a better handle on the plot, the characters, and the themes, and that would have encouraged me to read the whole book through with more understanding and enjoyment.** (And I wouldn't have had fantasies of

my English teacher being sentenced to the guillotine like Sydney Carton.)

No teacher can be all things to all students, no matter how much we try. None of us ever has enough minutes in a class period, or in a day, or even in a whole semester to fit in all we'd like to teach about the subjects we love (or hate). It's the tyranny of the forty-minute period. Just as you're getting to the juiciest parts of *The Scarlet Letter* or *Romeo and Juliet*, the clock says, "Time's up." Getting some students to understand the plot of *Heart of Darkness* or *Beowulf* is an awesome enough task, let alone having to explain the characters, settings, themes, motifs, etc. **But with SparkNotes study guides, your students can delve more deeply into all of this on their own and with your blessing.** If students feel that they can really understand a book by themselves, they will be more encouraged to read it all the way through.

Want to read more?

Reading doesn't have to end when the plot stops. When you and your students want to learn more about authors and the major themes in their writing, turn to **Suggestions for Further Reading** at the back of your SparkNotes study guides. There you'll find valuable bibliographies that will extend your class's appreciation and understanding of the books you've read together.

What does the title mean?

When your students ask what a cryptic title means, turn to the following pages in your SparkNotes study guides for explanations that will trigger class discussions on why the authors gave these books their particular names: page 54 of *The Catcher in the Rye*, page 58 of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, page 8 of *Lord of the Flies*, and pages 14 and 39 of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The Lord of the Flies – The name given to the sow’s head impaled on a stake and erected in the forest as an offering to the “beast” after Jack’s most brutal hunt. It comes to symbolize the primordial instincts of power and cruelty that take control of Jack’s tribe.

WITH SPARKNOTES, students will discover the great joy of reading that comprehension produces, and they will be more easily encouraged to read other challenging books.

As teachers, we always try to introduce stimulating ideas into our class discussions and writing assignments. We challenge our students to expand their thinking and express their thoughts freely. But sometimes we need a little boost to recharge our mental batteries, whether we’re teaching a book for the first time or the twentieth year. We reach out to other thinkers and writers for fresh ideas. A SparkNotes study guide can be one of those resources for you and your students. **Teacher ideas plus student ideas plus SparkNotes ideas equal an invigorating environment in which animated discussion groups crackle with lively debate and analysis.** You can capitalize on the new ideas your students bring to class to complement the ideas you introduce.

And the SparkNotes guides are great for helping your students understand basic literary terms and devices like

“Point of View,” “Tone,” “Protagonist,” “Conflict,” “Rising Action,” “Climax,” “Falling Action,” and “Foreshadowing” as they relate specifically to the book they’re reading. The study questions and review quizzes help your students sharpen their test-taking skills on both multiple-choice and written exams. The suggested essay topics at the end of every guide will provide you with new topics for creative and analytic writing assignments.

For these reasons and more, teachers welcome SparkNotes study guides into their overall curriculum plans.

Some teachers keep copies of SparkNotes on their desks and give them to students who are having trouble comprehending reading material. Other teachers ask students to read parts of a SparkNotes study guide aloud to jumpstart a lively class discussion.

And parents are grateful for them too. They can’t possibly read all the books their children’s teachers assign, but when their kids cry out for help on their homework, SparkNotes can help a hassled parent provide it.

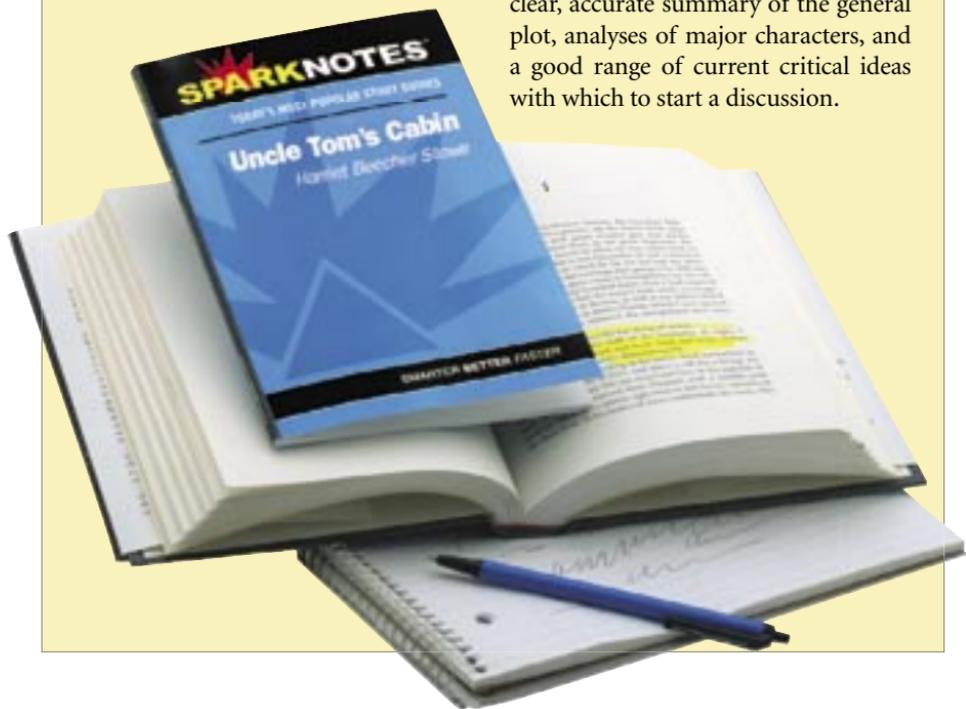
Using SparkNotes™ to Teach *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

by Edward Herscher, Ph.D.

AT MY SCHOOL, crib sheets for classic texts had always been regarded as anathema to higher learning, but members of my department have also had to acknowledge that these crib sheets were there and being used by students. To say a student simply couldn't use them was idiotic and hypocritical since many students were using them effectively to enhance their learning and some teachers, dare I say it, to enrich their teaching. In fact, most learning is dependent upon secondary sources.

A clear, accurate summary of the general plot, a general analysis of characters, and a good range of current critical ideas with which to start a discussion.

SparkNotes, I find, is a very good secondary source for high school and college students. The format provides a clear, accurate summary of the general plot, analyses of major characters, and a good range of current critical ideas with which to start a discussion.



Teaching *Uncle Tom's* cont'd.

THIS PAST ACADEMIC YEAR I assigned my students in an intensive American Studies program to read Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, but I required them to read only select chapters. I instructed them to use SparkNotes to read summaries of the intervening, unassigned chapters so they wouldn't miss out on the basic plot. Some of the students were so intrigued with the plot they were reading in summary that they turned to the original to see what the details

textual reading instead of spending all of our classtime identifying what happened next or asking the usual general questions. One of the apparent inconsistencies I wanted students to look for was how Stowe, for all her Christian charity toward African-Americans and her desire to see them liberated, had certain innate prejudices of her own. What were they? From her stereotypes of African-Americans' love of bright colors and music to other characteristics, we were able to begin a conversation about the nature of stereotyping and

The creative use of SparkNotes enabled us to have much more specific discussions about issues as described in the original text and beyond it.

were. The others, who only read the intervening summaries, had at least a good sense of the narrative sweep and the overriding issues.

To ensure that students were reading the assigned chapters, I gave them rigorous reading quizzes that they wouldn't be able to figure out unless they had read the original text. On the quizzes I would give them quotations or references to specific details that weren't obvious from the plot. It quickly told me who was reading and who wasn't. Students got the idea that the SparkNote was not a substitute for the actual book but an enrichment for their reading and their learning. With the quizzes, the students were reading—and reading closely.

I was pleased with the results, as we were able to concentrate on closer

prejudice. Other things we looked at were the use of the Bible to defend the institution of slavery (Stowe slams the preachers who use the Bible to support slavery), the variety of situations between slave and slave owner that Stowe depicts, the variety of attitudes of slaves from rebellious defiance of authority to humble Christian acquiescence to it, and so on. The creative use of SparkNotes enabled us to have much more specific discussions about issues as described in the original text and beyond it.

Edward Herscher, Ph.D., has been a teacher of English and American Studies for over thirty years. He currently teaches on Long Island in New York, but he has also taught in Washington, D.C., France, Southeast Asia, and Germany.

Out from Under the Covers

BUT WHAT IF a student reads the study guide and not the book? We know that happens. In the imperfect world we teach in, some of our students skip the books and try to bamboozle their way through group discussions, homework assignments, quizzes, and term papers, hating and fearing every minute of the course. They lack interest and have weak reading skills and poor comprehension. We'd like to offer them the extra help they need, but where's the time? If we could encourage them to supplement their reading with SparkNotes materials, the task would be less daunting, and they'd have a better chance to succeed. **Think of SparkNotes as a complement, not a substitute, and your students will too.** And most teachers would probably agree that it's better this than nothing.

SparkNotes study guides, SparkCharts, and the SparkNotes.com website can help a frazzled student tackle our assignments and come to our classes with understanding, satisfaction, relief, and an eagerness to participate.

Class discussions will go deeper and be more animated. Hands will shoot up as kids beg to be called on because they have opinions to express and ideas to share. Homework assignments will be completed more thoroughly. Quiz grades will be higher, and term papers will be more gratifying to read. It's a win-win situation for both students and teachers.

After lights out at summer camp, I used to read by flashlight under the

covers, against camp rules. What's wrong with reading? I asked myself. Surely the counselors would rather have us read than raid.

In the same light, I say, let's get SparkNotes out from under the covers. Anything that gets more knowledge into the noggins of our stressed-out students and helps our stressed-out teachers—at home or in the classroom—has to be good.



SparkCharts™

HAVE YOU SEEN the new SparkCharts? They've packed a textbook's worth of basic knowledge on Philosophy, Physics, and Finance (plus English Grammar, Algebra II, U.S. History, and many, many more subjects) onto double- and triple-fold cards that fit into a loose-leaf binder. They've even punched the holes for you. And the cards are laminated, so on the Anatomy SparkChart you can study the digestive system in living color while you eat lunch and not worry about dribbling on it. (On that same SparkChart you can see exactly where the thigh bone is connected to the hip bone.)

One hectare equals 200 acres. That fact is not on the tip of my tongue, but on the "Weights & Measures" SparkChart it's readily at hand.

And I didn't remember that there are four types of macromolecules in living organisms. The SparkChart on "Biology" reminded me.

In French, adjectives of beauty, age, number, goodness, and size get placed in front of the nouns they're modifying. The "French" SparkChart saved me from the embarrassment of putting them after.

In my high school Geometry classes, did I ever learn that two parallel lines intersected by a transversal create eight angles with special relationships? (Back then I was worrying about my own special relationships.) No matter. It's right there on the SparkChart on "Geometry."

I do recall that Henry Hudson explored the Hudson River, but the



fact that Harvard was founded in 1636 somehow slipped my memory until SparkCharts "U.S. History" jogged it. (It's a good thing that Harvard was founded in 1636, because about 360 years later, Harvard students created the SparkNotes study guides.)

Oh, what a Renaissance man Leonardo da Vinci would have been if he'd had SparkCharts back in the 1500s. But today, all of us can possess vast stores of knowledge on laminated cards in our loose-leaf binders without adding much weight to our backpacks.

The most important points from your textbook or lecture, organized into an easy-to-read, laminated chart that fits directly into a notebook or binder.

SparkCharts™—created by Harvard students for students everywhere—serve as study companions and reference tools that cover a wide range of subjects, including Business, Math, Science, History, Law, Humanities, Foreign Language, Writing, and Poetry.



Titles like Essay & Term Papers, English Grammar, Study Tactics, and Poetry give students what they need to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. Outlines and summaries cover key points, while diagrams and tables make difficult concepts easier.

The SparkNotes Guide to the New SAT (June 2005)

Who Needs a New SAT?

Way back in 1926, when a small group of students sat down to take the SAT, the letters S-A-T stood for Scholastic Aptitude Test. In 1993 the SAT got a new name, the SAT I, and everyone simply agreed that the SAT would no longer stand for anything.

In response to complaints that the SAT also tests next to nothing, the people behind the test endeavored to transform the test top to bottom. So now **the SAT is undergoing the most extensive changes in its 75-year history, all of which will premiere as the New SAT in March 2005.**

What's New About the New SAT?

The Math section has been beefed up with tougher concepts from Algebra II. The Verbal section has been tweaked and renamed Critical Reading. And then there's the element everyone's talking about: an entirely new Writing section that features a student-written essay.

If that news isn't daunting enough, soon getting a 1600 on the SAT will make your score just about average. **The test's three sections will each total 800 points, making 2400 the top score on the New SAT.**

What Should Students Do to Prepare for the New SAT?

Here's where SparkNotes comes in. Everything students need to beat the new SAT lies between our book's covers: we've got the facts, the strategies, and the same study methods that helped our writers ace the SAT and get into great schools.

And we don't have a hidden agenda. By now everybody knows SparkNotes is about students helping students. We don't want to sell you a \$3000 course or bore you with strategies inscribed on parchment by some wrinkled and disgruntled SAT tutor. We're here to help students beat the test, get in to the college of their choice, and have a good time along the way.

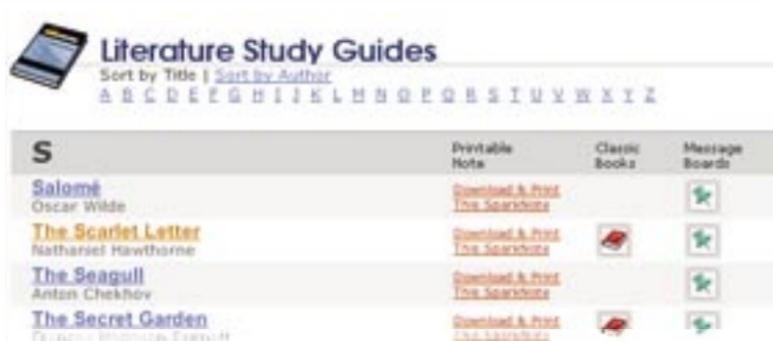
The SparkNotes Guide to the New SAT is co-authored by Ben Florman and Justin Kestler, the editorial team who built SparkNotes from the ground up into today's most popular educational resource online and in print. Kestler and Florman have mastered the ins and outs of the New SAT and have infused their guide with just what students need to know to meet and beat the new test.


Titles currently available:

- SAT & PSAT 2004
- SAT & PSAT Internet Edition 2004
- SAT II Biology
- SAT II Chemistry
- SAT II Math IC
- SAT II Math IIC
- SAT II Physics
- SAT II US History
- SAT II Writing
- ACT 2004
- ACT 2004 (deluxe)
- SAT 2004
- SAT 2004 (deluxe)
- The New SAT
- 5 More Practice Tests for the SAT II Math IC
- 5 More Practice Tests for the SAT II Math IIC
- 5 More Practice Tests for the SAT II US History
- 5 More Practice Tests for the SAT II Biology
- 5 More Practice Tests for the SAT II Writing
- SAT Verbal Workbook
- SAT Math Workbook

What's Unique About the SparkNotes Guide to the New SAT?

- Co-authored by the editorial team who built SparkNotes
- Written in a tone and voice students can relate to
- No ulterior motive to get students to take expensive courses
- Concise, easy-to-understand coverage of every new facet of the New SAT
- Custom-made strategies for beating each section and question type on the test
- Special focus on the Writing section, including extensive Essay prep
- Three full-length practice tests, including several sample essays for each
- Complete SAT FAQ section with answers to the questions on every student's mind



SparkNotes.com

MILLIONS OF STUDENTS, some of them yours, are surfing this site every day to gain deeper insights into their reading, with more interpretation and less recitation.

But SparkNotes.com is not just for your students. You'll find plenty of material online (and in the printed study guides) that you can use to prepare your lesson plans, spice up your in-class discussions, and

enhance your tests. And all of this is available on your computer, day and night.

Log on to SparkNotes.com and spend some time on the Internet exploring a wonderful educational website. **There are over 1000 study guides for free, plus searchable texts of classic books.** The search feature of the site allows users to reach into an astonishingly huge database of quotations and facts in ways that books-in-hand simply cannot offer.



A wide variety of tools at your fingertips.

1984
 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
 The Aeneid
 All Quiet on the Western Front
 And Then There Were None
 Angela's Ashes
 Animal Farm
 Anna Karenina
 Anne of Green Gables
 Anthem
 Antony and Cleopatra
 Aristotle's Ethics (Nicomachean Ethics)
 As I Lay Dying
 As You Like It
 Atlas Shrugged
 The Autobiography of Malcolm X
 The Awakening
 The Bean Trees
 The Bell Jar
 Beloved
 Beowulf
 Billy Budd
 Black Boy
 Bless Me, Ultima
 The Bluest Eye
 Brave New World
 The Brothers Karamazov
 The Call of the Wild
 Candide
 The Canterbury Tales
 Catch-22
 The Catcher in the Rye
 The Chosen
 Cold Mountain
 Cold Sassy Tree
 The Color Purple
 The Count of Monte Cristo
 Crime and Punishment
 The Crucible
 Cry, The Beloved Country
 Cyrano de Bergerac
 David Copperfield
 Death of a Salesman

Plato's The Death of Socrates
 The Diary of a Young Girl
 A Doll's House
 Don Quixote
 Dr. Faustus
 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
 Dracula
 Dune
 East of Eden
 Emma
 Ethan Frome
 Fahrenheit 451
 Fallen Angels
 A Farewell to Arms
 Farewell to Manzanar
 Flowers for Algernon
 For Whom the Bell Tolls
 The Fountainhead
 Frankenstein
 The Giver
 The Glass Menagerie
 Gone with the Wind
 The Good Earth
 The Grapes of Wrath
 Great Expectations
 The Great Gatsby
 Greek Classics
 Grendel
 Gulliver's Travels
 Hamlet
 The Handmaid's Tale
 Hard Times
 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
 Heart of Darkness
 Henry IV, Part I
 Henry V
 Hiroshima
 The Hobbit
 The House of the Seven Gables
 I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
 The Iliad
 Inferno
 Inherit the Wind
 Invisible Man
 Jane Eyre
 Johnny Tremain
 The Joy Luck Club

Julius Caesar
 The Jungle
 The Killer Angels
 King Lear
 The Last of the Mohicans
 Les Misérables
 A Lesson Before Dying
 The Little Prince
 Little Women
 Lord of the Flies
 The Lord of the Rings
 Macbeth
 Madame Bovary
 A Man for All Seasons
 The Mayor of Casterbridge
 The Merchant of Venice
 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 Moby-Dick
 Much Ado About Nothing
 My Ántonia
 Mythology (Edith Hamilton's)
 Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
 Native Son
 The New Testament
 Night
 Notes From Underground
 The Odyssey
 The Oedipus Plays
 Of Mice and Men
 The Old Man and the Sea
 The Old Testament
 Oliver Twist
 The Once and Future King
 One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich
 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
 One Hundred Years of Solitude
 Othello
 Our Town
 The Outsiders
 Paradise Lost

A Passage to India
 The Pearl
 The Picture of Dorian Gray
 Poe's Short Stories
 A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
 Pride and Prejudice
 The Prince
 A Raisin in the Sun
 The Red Badge of Courage
 The Republic
 Richard III
 Robinson Crusoe
 Romeo and Juliet
 The Scarlet Letter
 A Separate Peace
 Silas Marner
 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
 Slaughterhouse-Five
 Snow Falling on Cedars
 Song of Solomon
 The Sound and the Fury
 Steppenwolf
 The Stranger
 A Streetcar Named Desire
 The Sun Also Rises
 A Tale of Two Cities
 The Taming of the Shrew
 The Tempest
 Tess of the d'Urbervilles
 Their Eyes Were Watching God
 Things Fall Apart
 The Things They Carried
 To Kill a Mockingbird
 The Lighthouse
 Treasure Island
 Twelfth Night
 Ulysses
 Uncle Tom's Cabin
 Walden
 War and Peace
 Wuthering Heights
 A Yellow Raft in Blue Water

Over 1000 study guides free at SparkNotes.com!