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Click here to download a list of 100 books everyone should read. One of the first articles we published on the art of masculinity was 100 Must-Read Books for Men. The play was the result of a collaboration between the AoM team and several guest writers. The list was certainly decent enough, but some of the guest choices weren't the books we personally recommend. Similarly, over the past nine years we have read a few additional books worthy of inclusion. So today we present an updated list of 100 books that everyone should read during their lifetime. It is a library that focuses not on pure enjoyment (although you will find that too), but on books that expand the mind and soul, build new mental models, and allow you to become more culturally literate and thus better involved in the Great Conversation. These are books you'll continue to think about long after you've finished the last page (even then, or perhaps especially when, you disagree with their ideas), providing cognitive balances you'll chew on for years, and decades to come. The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald Set among New York's elite in the roaring 20s, this book is considered one of America's great literary products for a reason. The narrator Nick Carraway befriended his mysterious millionaire neighbor, Jay Gatsby, and turns out to be a crucial link in Jay's quixotic obsession with Nick's cousin, Daisy. Metaphors, beautiful writing, and lessons can be gathered about reliving the past all make The Great Gatsby worth reading, over and over again. Our interview with NPR's Maureen Corrigan is worth listening to. She is the author of So We Read About: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why He Stands Up. We discussed her exploration of why the novel, written about Jazz Age New York, that resonates with Americans nearly a century later. Prince Niccolo Machiavelli, written in the early 1500s, is a classic guide on how to acquire and retain political power (even if these methods are sometimes questionable) - the so-called primer for princes. His commandments are direct, if not alarmingly cold in their formulaic pragmatism. He asks the classic question: Do the means justify the purpose? A decent read for anyone who wants to better understand the motives and actions that tend to rule modern politics. Stephen Ambrose's group of brothers Stephen Ambrose, who passed long before his time, gave us some of the best World War II stories out there, with Band of Brothers being the best of the bunch. From their rigorous training in Georgia to the end of the war, Ambrose tells the incredible story of the People of Easy Company. These were soldiers who starved, froze and died for each other, and whose inspiring story lives not only in this book, but also in dozens of others, and, in the popular HBO miniseries. Teh Teh Plato Republic is a short-town dialogue written by Plato around 380 BC concerning the definition of justice and how to order and characterize only the city-state. This is the most famous work of the great philosopher and turned out to be one of the most influential works of the history of philosophy and political theory. In it, Socrates and other interlocutors discuss the meaning of justice and explore whether a simple person is happier than an unjust person, as well as the theory of forms, the immortality of the soul and the role of the philosopher in society. Wealth Of Nations Adam Smith's Fundamental work on free-market policy: It's not from the benevolence of a butcher, brewer or baker that we expect our lunch, but from their attitude to their own interests. We turn to them not to their humanity, but to their love for themselves and never talk to them about our own needs, but about their advantages. Want to get an economics education? This book is a great start. The Call of Wildlife Jack London Is a wonderful story about Buck, a domesticated dog forced to adapt to a life of work in Alaska during the Yukon gold rush, and told from his perspective. Over time, his soft appearance and manner hardens as he learns the harsh realities of the cold. Survival replaces comfort, and strength replaces slackness. In addition, Jack London provides some of the most punchy, most courageous writing you'll ever come across. Theodore Roosevelt Trilogy Edmund Morris Over three volumes and about 2,500 pages, Edmund Morris leads us through the unprecedented and never duplicated life of the patron saint of AoM, President Theodore Roosevelt. No one has achieved more and lived as vigorously as TR. From his younger days as a wimp who learned to hone his body, to his final forays into politics and across Amazon, Morris really covers him all. Although beastly, this trilogy is well worth the time of any man who has ever felt from a touch of anxiety; Reading about TR will turn this alarm into action! 1984 George Orwell Set in the future dystopian world of eternal war and constant government surveillance, our hero, Winston, is the quintessential commoner who works for the Ministry of Truth rewriting the history of the government's partisan rhetoric. He comes to a secret organization that seeks to destroy the state, and along with a mysterious woman, joins the cause to fight against Big Brother. Although published in the late 1940s, it resonates today more than ever. Will you be lemming? Or will you be an independent thinker and actor? Aldous Huxley's Brave New World Is Similar to 1984, but while this novel heralds a change in state rule, the Aldous Huxley 1931 classic looks at the technological changes that will change society - children are born in Entertainment is formulaic, not not individuality is frowned upon, and society is very stratified. Bernard Marx is at the top of society but can't fit in. So he takes a hard-won vacation, only to discover some disturbing things about the world he left behind. How to win friends and influence people Dale Carnegie's grandfather books about people's skills, tips found in How to Win Friends and Influence People are still sound and applicable 80 years later. Carnegie writes about skills such as making people feel valued and appreciated, ensuring that you don't come across as manipulative (which happens unintentionally more than we think!), and essentially win people over your perspectives and ideas. While this may seem a little disingenuous in its description, it's really the skills that people use every day, and this book is a great resource for boning your social game. Roman honor Carlin Barton Best book of honor - bar No. Barton masterfully explores how honor shaped the life of ancient Rome from the early days of the Republic and all the way through the fall of the empire. It shows how small, intimate groups are vital to honor to survive and how imperialism kills it. This book is hard to read, but it's well worth the effort. The ideas are so brilliant that it's almost astounding, and even footnotes are packed with fascinating asides. Catch-22 Joseph Heller Set in Italy during World War II, Catch-22 is the story of malingering bombardier John Yossarian. He's a hero, but also furious at the idea that there are a lot of people he's never met who are trying to kill him. On top of that, his own army has adopted Catch-22 - a bureaucratic rule that says a person is insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions, but if he makes a request to be suspended from service, he is sane and therefore in no right to be released. This is how military satire is born, synonymous with the word mystery. Slaughter five Kurt Vonnegut This absurdist, unconventional novel tells the story of Billy Pilgrim, a guy who became unstuck from the borders of time when he was kidnapped by aliens. We see Billy's entire life, primarily focusing on his experience as a prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany in 1945 during the city's infamous firebombing (history divides Vonnegut itself). Using part science fiction, part humor, and part autobiography, Vonnegut takes the reader on an sometimes uncomfortable journey through the realities and absurdes of war. Fyodor Dostoyevsky's Brothers Karamazov While the book's plot focuses on an aging, unselfish father and his three adult children, the substance found inside goes far beyond that. Dostoyevsky's last and greatest novel, this book also includes spiritual and moral dramas and debates about God, free will, ethics, morality, reason, and more. This is a philosophical work, dressed as a novel, which, of course, facilitates the digestion of Dostoevsky's weighty ideas. McDuff's translation receives rave reviews. The sun also rises Ernest Hemingway's novel, which catapulted Hemingway to worldwide fame and success. The sun also rises followed by Jake Barnes and a group of former Patriot friends across Spain and France, with plenty of wine drinks and bullfighting. The novel is a bit semi-authoric in that the main character tries to cope with his war wounds - both physical and emotional - and escape to the supposed romanticism of travel and eating and drinking to the contents of your heart. Is Jake a good luck? You'll have to read to find out. For whom the bell rings Ernest Hemingway Robert Jordan is a young dynamite in the Spanish Civil War. He is an American who volunteered to fight against Franco's fascists, and goes to the enemy's rear to pull out an important bridge to prevent enemy forces from moving forward. He lives in a rudimentary camp with anti-fascist Spanish guerrillas, and comes to accept their heartfelt lifestyle and love. And of course, there are some incredible battle scenes that have been informed by Hemingway's own time as a correspondent in the Spanish Civil War. The Swiss family of Robinson Johann David Weiss After a terrible storm, the Swiss family Robinson becomes shipwrecked on a desert island. With teamwork, ingenuity, and a bit of pluck, the group strives to overcome the obstacles of nature and create some semblance of community and civility in their new surroundings. A truly classic tale of survival and adventure. On the road Jack Kerouac's defining novel Generation Beat, On the Road is a fictional but semi-autobiographical account of two friends road trips across America, amid the counter-culture of jazz, poetry, drug use, and drunken fun back alley bars. Along with their travels, they are looking for what many young people are looking for: freedom, ambition, hope, and authenticity. Jack Kerouac's Dharma Boom, first published in 1958, a year after a generation of bits was put on the road, Dharma Bams is one of Jack Kerouac's most powerful and influential novels. The story focuses on two cheerful young Americans - a climber, a poet, and a zen Buddhist, Japhy Ryder, and Ray Smith, a zestful, innocent writer - whose quest for truth leads them on a heroic odyssey, from marathon parties and poetry to jam sessions in San Francisco's Bohemians to solitude and mountaineering in the High Sierras. Iliad and Homer's Odyssey These epic poems are among the oldest works of literature in the world. They were read, enjoyed, and studied for thousands of years, and for good reason. They are not only beautiful to the ear, but contain lessons that each person learn about heroism, courage, courage, Manhood. Iliad takes place during the last few weeks of the Trojan War and tells in detail about the feat of Achilles and Hector, as well as various other legends and stories. Odyssey, a kind of sequel, is about the journey of the great warrior Odysseus home after the Trojan War. He faces various obstacles in his return to Greece, and we also see how his family at home coped with his supposed death. Walden Henry David Thoreau First published in 1854, Walden detailed Henry David Thoreau's experience over two years, two months and two days in the cabin he built near Walden Pond, among a forest owned by friend and mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson. The book is a philosophical reflection on simple life and shed the trivial connections that bind one to society. Thoreau explains how separating yourself from the world of people can really awaken a sleeper. William Golding's Lord of the Flies is a novel about primitive instincts and self-government, established within the history of a group of ordinary boys stuck on a desert island. While fun at first, things quickly convey when it comes time to actually think about long-term survival. These are equal parts of parable, political treatise, morality tale, and apocalyptic warnings. Although published in 1954, its lessons and feelings sound just as true today. Atlas straightened Ayn Rand's shoulders While there is a lot of political, moral and economic philosophy in this book, it is covered in action stories. Set in the near future, our heroes are Dagny Taggart, and they to the transcontinental rail empire, and Hank Rearden, the head of the steel company who invented the revolutionary new alloy. Together they fight against evil government bureaucrats and socialists to keep civilization together, while all this time powerful industrialists mysteriously disappear, leaving behind only the mysterious phrase Who is John Galt? Although this book is associated with passionate libertarianism, the story is interesting to ponder regardless of political beliefs. The Boy Scout Handbook (1st edition) is a book that started the Boy Scout movement. You will be amazed at the amount of useful information that the first guide to the publication compared to the Scouts' guide today. In addition to learning basic scouting skills, the first edition also includes stories of adventure, bravery and virtue that will excite and inspire anyone. True first editions can be hard to find and super expensive, but inexpensive reissues are fortunately readily available. The Thin Air John Krakauer Mount Everest 1996 climbing season went down as one of the deadliest in the history of mountaineering. Author and journalist John Krakauer was there to write a story about Everest, and ended up directly smearing in the middle of a devastating and unexpected The book is not only an adventure tale (made even more dramatic by its reality), but the story of the mountains and the great trials people go through to get the pinnacle of them, even looking death in the face. Mines king Solomon H. Ryder Haggard Fictional adventurer Allan Cuathermain is drafted into a search-and-rescue party that leads to a great unknown unknown unknown Africa, where entire civilizations are discovered and rumors about the whereabouts of King Solomon's mines lead the team on one of the greatest adventures in all literature. The river runs through it by Norman McLean Although it is a collection of three stories, the title story gets the most attention as a love letter to the art of flying fishing, with metaphysical and philosophical questions rooted while knee-deep in water. Although technically fiction, like many other stories on this list, they are rooted deep in the author's own experience. Since its original edition 40 years ago, the connection of fishing to life and philosophy has become a common trope in pop culture. Malcolm X's autobiography Malcolm X is one of the most controversial public figures in the Civil Rights Movement. His autobiography shows what a difficult man he was. In it we see his transformation from ignorance and despair to knowledge and spiritual awakening. His emphasis on the principle of self-reliance and asserting one's rights can resonate with every man, especially in turbulent political and social times. Count of Monte Cristo Alexandre Dumas The ultimate story of betrayal and revenge. Edmund Dantes, a few days before his marriage in his favorite Mercedes, brutally betrayed, arrested for treason and therefore taken to prison on an island off the French coast. The story continues to tell the story of his escape from prison (don't worry, it's the beginning of the novel and nothing destroys) and he becomes rich and re-enters society as an educated and complex count. He plots his revenge, his eyes restoring his love, and ultimately... Well, you just have to read it. All quiet on the Western Front Erich Maria Remarque banned in Germany shortly after its publication, Everything quiet on the Western Front is the sobering history of German soldiers in the trenches of World War I. We see the extreme physical and mental stress they experienced during the war, as well as the detachment from civilian life that many of these soldiers experienced on their return home. It was one of the first novels depicting the modern brutality of battle and how technological advances destroyed the heroic romanticism of war. Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen has a reputation for chicken burns, but her classic work is worth it and enjoyable reads for men too. Start with pride and prejudice: the novel tells the story of the Bennet family, especially the second daughter Elizabeth. She faces growing pressure to get married, and she met the handsome and upper class Mr. Darcy, sparks flying. Like all relationships though, it's not that easy, and no one quite seems to be who they seem to be on the street. Austin's wit, sarcasm and observations about the hypocrisy of life make this book eminently readable and relative. The Art of War Sun Tzu The Art of War remains a classic text about strategic warfare. Written in the 6th century, it has an impact on military leaders as well as businessmen and politicians in particular until now. His themes and ideas have been studied and overworked over many centuries, and it would make a man good in all aspects of life to read proverbs books every now and then, as retraining for tactical skill. If you want to be a great man, you have to learn from great people. One of the best ways to do this is through reading biographies. A massive collection of Plutarch, the life of noble Greeks and Romans, profiles some of the greatest men in history through this time, and illuminates their common pros and cons. His biography of Alexander the Great is particularly attractive. The Bible Despite being one of the most religious industrialized countries, America's religious literacy is extremely impoverished. What is the problem, you ask? Well, half of the books on this list (probably more, actually) make biblical references that should be known to the reader in order to fully understand the message. If a Westerner wants to understand the culture that surrounds him, he must have a deep understanding of one of the books that most influenced him. In addition, the Bible is full of ancient advice and advice that applies to any modern person, whether Jewish, Christian, or non-religious at all. Larry McMurtry's Lonely Dove Lonely Dove is quite possibly the greatest Western novel ever written. The story tells the story of two longtime friends who travel from the Rio Grande to Montana. Along the way, they encounter criminals, Indians and old flames. Keep in mind, this book is a beast. But reading it (and rereading it) is definitely worth it. Once you're done, make sure to watch the mini-series. After the virtues of Alasdair McIntyre, McIntyre, a Scottish philosopher, argues that the language of virtue and true understanding of morality have been lost to us in the modern era, while we think we know what morality is, we're just riffing on the fragmentary parts that remain. The result is an irrational, incomprehensible mess where moral disputes are shrill and impossible to resolve. What is needed is the unity of virtue and why - the common ultimate goal of human life - as envisioned in Aristotle philosophy. The book is heavy and deep, and takes a few reads to begin to understand and mine rich ideas. But once you do, you'll on it often as you observe the stagnation and entanglement of modern culture. Maltese falcon Dashiell Hammett There is nothing better than a good hard-boiled detective novel. And, like any great work in the genre, moral ambiguities abound. Sam Spade, the main character, is a hardened and cynical private eye with his own code of ethics. Enter the grifter, a beautiful woman whose loyalty shifts to drop a penny, and a valuable missing falcon statue - and you're primed for a remarkable romp of history. To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee's constantly school-nominated novel Harper Lee is a classic for a reason. Six-year-old scout and her older brother Jem spend their days riding bikes, spying on neighbors and hanging out with their friends. Things in the city are getting much more serious though when their widowed father, Atticus, comes to defend a black man who has been accused of raping a white girl. Suddenly, children are thrust into a very adult world, and rely on their father to help put

things in perspective. Michael Shaara's Killer Angels is a historical novel of the four days of the Battle of Gettysburg. It tells the story of a bloody novel by men who played a key role in it, as it is said from different points of view. Shaara tries to get into the minds of General Lee and Colonel Longstreet to decipher their thoughts and motives leading to a fateful battle. Love, fear, pride - we see all the emotions that a soldier and leader can feel in the days leading up to and during the terrible fighting. Benjamin Franklin's autobiography This autobiography is considered by many to be America's first self-help book. In addition to sharing his life story, Franklin explains how a person can make himself successful, in large part by sharing his own tactics. The story begins with Franklin as a child, walking barefoot and with rolls in his pocket, and ends with him being a successful businessman, scientist and statesman. Woven throughout numerous tips on performance action and personal development. Stories of Herodotus If we do not learn from the past, we are doomed to repeat it. The Stories of Herodotus are considered a fundamental work of history in Western literature and have created the genre that we know today. It is a account of ancient traditions, politics, geography and cultural clashes in West Asia, North Africa and Greece. The Founding Fathers looked at history to learn from the mistakes that the ancient Greeks made with democracy, not to repeat them. From here to eternity James Jones In this magnificent but brutal classic of soldier's life, James Jones depicts the courage, violence and passions of men and women who live by unspoken codes and with unspeakable despair. Private Robert E. Lee Prevtitt is a welterweight champion and a fine but he's he join the boxing team. First Sergeant Milton Anthony Warden knows as a soldier better than almost anyone, but he risks his career to deal with the commander's wife. Hawaii may be a paradise outside, but not all rainbows and butterflies. James Jones' 'thin red line of James Jones is a fictional depiction of the Guadalcanal campaign during World War II. Charlie's men are about to land, gloomy and white-faced, on Guadalcanal Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. As one reviewer pointed out: This is their story, a crushingly realistic walk to hell and back. Some soldiers earn medals, others do their best to be sent home before landing in the grave. And they all believe that there is a thin red line that separates sane people from the lunatics. Robert Pirsig's zen and motorcycle maintenance art Part memoir and part philosophy, zen dubiously holds the Guinness Book of Records for having rejected 121 publishers before publication and becoming a perennial bestseller. Published in 1974, he chronicles a 17-day father-son motorcycle journey from Minnesota to California. In the midst of this journey, our narrator (along with his son) explore a few philosophical issues, with the main theme being the value of quality, and what good work really looks like in our modern world - ideas that still apply equally well 40 years later. Raymond Chandler's Long Farewell Long Farewell is the latest book in Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlow detective series. In it, Marlowe befriends war veteran Terry Lennox with scars to prove it. Then he learns that Terry has a very rich wife, with whom he divorced and remarried, and who eventually died. Now Lennox's on the llamas, and the cops are circling Marlowe. Full of gangsters and beautiful rock women, this is a hard-boiled novel at its best. Self-Reliance - Other essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson's Self-Reliance contain the most notable of Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophies: the need for every person to avoid conformity and personal inconsistencies, and to follow their own instincts and ideas. You have to rely on yourself compared to going with the ebb and flow of culture in general. Other essays in the collection are devoted to friendship, history, experience and more. Ulysses James Joyce This notoriously hard-to-read novel chronicles the wandering appointments and meetings of the main character Leopold Bloom in Dublin during a typical day, June 16, 1904. Ulysses is a Latinized version of Odysseus, the famous hero of Homeric, and Joyce establishes a connection between the characters and the experiences of the two. Using stream of consciousness writing, and lots of puns and allusions, it's almost guaranteed you won't fully get it at first reading. Just do what you can and do it. The Master and Mikhail Bulgakov There is nothing more courageous than a fight with the devil. Mikhail Bulgakov wrote this entertaining commentary about the social bureaucracy in Moscow at the height of Stalin's rule. Lucifer himself pays a visit to an atheist city to shed light on the people's scepticism about the spiritual sphere. The novel also visits ancient Jerusalem under the rule of Pontius Pilate. Even for non-religious, this book will provide a lot of food for thought. Cormac McCarthy Road has been named some love story between father and son, and nothing can better describe it. The book powerfully puts the beauty and sorrow of fatherhood in a harsh perspective, revealing paternal love intensely close to the bone. The unnamed father and his son pilgrimage through dreary, ash, post-apocalyptic America, pushing a basket of their supplies and constantly cleaning up for their next meal. As a father watches over the bad guys (wild tribes of child-eating men who maraud throughout the landscape), he teaches his son to stay one of the good guys - always carry the fire. Steppenwolf Hermann Hesse Steppenwolf, one of hermann Hesse's most famous works, follows a sad and lonely intellectual for whom life brings no joy. Harry Haller has both a rational man and a wild wolf-premiere, and it is difficult for him to reconcile these two natures. But then he meets a carefree and elusive woman, Hermine, who shows him that life's pleasures are not necessarily as hollow as he once thought. A book about the affairs of arms and chivalry by Christina de Pisan In any era, you don't necessarily expect a book about war to come from under a woman's pen. You may be even more surprised to learn that a woman named Christine de Pisan wrote and published such a guide in the early 1400s. It conveys a lot regarding the strategy, tactics and technical progress of the medieval war. It includes important source material about early gunpowder, as well as many thoughts about The Simple War. A classic work that just doesn't get much attention, the book deals arms and chivalry deserves a place on the bookshelf. Don quixote Miguel de Cervantes It's all good to be a dreamer, but man also has to be based on reality. It's a lesson that Don quixote comes to learn in the 17th century book of the same name, which is widely considered the first novel in the world. Kihot, along with his squire Sancho Panza, travels the world in search of grandiose adventures and heroic deeds that will come to him the title of Knight. It continues, against everything, and in some cases, against all common sense. Funny, surprisingly easy to read, given the fact that it is more than 400 years old, and can give a person many lessons about the aspirations of heroism. The Invisible Man Ralph Ellison's Story of the Unnamed a man in New York who grows up in the south but moves north to be part of the Brotherhood, a society that supposedly fights for justice and equality. He soon understands the political motives behind the movement, though, and backs away in an attempt to figure out who he is as a black man in white America. A novel about race, identity, acceptance, and being comfortable with who you are - is a book that everyone should read. The adventures of Huckleberry Finn's Mark Twain Classic American work, Huck Finn often required reading in high school, and for good reason. One of the first books written in the local language (i.e. with the language of a particular region) can be considered as a caustic satire on the pre-war south, and as a story of coming of age for the young Huck Finn. Finn - a white boy - teams up with a runaway adult slave Jim as they run on a raft on the Mississippi River, and swim in many adventures together. Thomas Hobbs's Leviathan, written during the English Civil War in the mid-1600s, Hobbs's work is one of the leading bodies in political theory. The main concern of the book is the centralized power of a sovereign state, existing to maintain order and peace. How should society be structured? How to manage people? This is an influential example of the theory of social contracting, which states that people, simply being part of society, agree to give up certain rights in order to preserve others. In our modern political upheaval, any classic work of social theory is worth reading for a greater perspective. Aristotle's Niekomash ethic is the central work of Aristotle's thoughts on ethics, which details how a person should live best. The themes covered are virtue, the right actions, and the specific qualities people should strive after, like courage, justice, generosity, moderation, etc. Cyrano de Bergerac Edmond Rostand This 1897 play follows French cadet Cyrano de Bergerac. He is a poet, musician and experienced fenceman - a real man of the Renaissance. Unfortunately, Cyrano has a tragically large nose, which prevents him from being able to profess his feelings for Roxanne and feels that he is not worthy of anyone's love. What should a person do in such a situation? Read and find out. William Manchester's Last Lion Trilogy is arguably the best biography you've ever read. Epic scale - about 3,000 pages divided over 3 volumes - Manchester takes you on a pleasant and eye-opening ride through Winston Churchill's legendary life. It's hard to call any biography a page turner, since you know what's going on, but the last lion comes terribly close. Tragically, Manchester died before being able to finish the last volume, and another author intervened to it. Thus, the third volume is a little behind two, but they are all eminently worth reading. Naked and Dead Norman Mailer Like many World War II novels written in the late 40s and 50s, Naked and Dead pulls much from author Norman Mailer's own experience as a soldier in the Philippines. The story focuses on American troops who face an outing from the Japanese on a fictional South Pacific island so they can advance to the Philippines. Between the nature of the dialogue, and the time machine sections that focus on soldier backstories, we get a realistic view of being an American warrior in the Pacific campaign of World War II. As with most novels of the era, this is usually not a beautiful picture. This life boy Tobias Wolf is a classic memoir of adolescence and growing up without a real father. The author's parents, Tobias Wolff, are divorced, and he finds himself in the care of his mother, travels around the country and is constantly on the move. They develop a very close relationship, but Wolf also has to fight to create his own identity and self-esteem when a new stepfather enters the picture. Between teenage frustrations and schemes, he finds a path to self-imitation that ultimately changes his life. Hatchet Gary Paulsen's main story is that a teenage boy named Brian Robson falls in the middle of the Canadian desert while flying in the bushes of a plane. The pilot dies and the boy is alive. Alone in the desert, Brian must learn to survive in the wild for 54 days with nothing but an axe. No real twists, but the lessons a man can learn from survival and self-reliance are just as enjoyable and instructive for boys as adult men. The resilience of Eric Greitens is a resilience series of letters between the now-elected Governor of Missouri Eric Greitens and a SEAL buddy who is going through difficult times in his life after returning home from service and struggling with alcoholism, job loss, and PTSD. Gray encourages his experience in philosophy to give ideas and advice to his friend on how to develop resilience in the face of adversity. This is a book that needs to be read, and reread, and reread again by anyone who could use a little more resilience in their lives. In other words, everything. Tarzan Monkeys Edgar Rice Burroughs's perpetual title character, first presented here, has inspired more than twenty sequels and several feature films. Raised by gorillas, Tarzan seeks the truth of his origin and finds himself at odds with the king of gorillas who killed his father. In Tarzan, Edgar Rice Burroughs captures the wild melancholy and primitive abilities usually hidden under the trappings of civilization. Thus, said Frederick Nietzsche, God is dead. It's zbermensch. Eternal repetition. He will be in power. Many of Friedrich Nietzsche's most famous and controversial ideas are explored in this novel that which a fictional wandering prophet named zaratustra (named after the founder of zoroastrianism). Through the city, Nietzsche attacks modern philosophy and morality and provides a philosophical basis for approaching life in the post-religious world. Whether you are a believer or a non-believer, if you want to understand today's cultural environment, it is necessary to read. Federalist documents consisting of 85 articles, Federalist documents served to explain and encourage ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Most of the essays were written by Alexander Hamilton and originally published in The Independent Journal and The New York Packet. While the Constitution lays out the laws of the land, these essays provide an 18th century version of the voting/blue book we receive mail during elections, explaining the laws that are being proposed. It is important to read for any civil-minded American (who should be every American!). The Godfather of Mario Puzo Although famous films get more recognition, the book is a masterpiece in its own right. Author Mario Puzo shows us both the good and the bad sides of the family and the loyalty of the community. While Corleone is obviously doing some really bad things, they're a group of guys who are good at being men. They protect their family at all costs, they are extremely generous to those who are in their immediate surroundings, and they never stop fighting. Also, it's just a darn entertaining read. Moby Dick Herman Melville Book, which inspired the gazillion white whale metaphors, and really doesn't need to be described. Still, here's the brief: Moby-Dick is Herman Melville's 19th-century masterpiece about the insatiable search for whaling Captain Ahab to avenge the great white whale that maimed him, as Ishmael, a sailor aboard the ship Ahab, said. It's also inspired by the truth, which makes it even more amazing. Frankenstein Mary Shelley This short but all-popular tale is to take on the humanity and horror of a young woman. Mary Shelley was just 21 when Frankenstein was first published in 1818, and the book is widely regarded as the first non-fiction/horror novel. While you surely know the monster and the story of the mad scientist Victor Frankenstein bringing it to life, it's a much darker and more philosophical book than what pop culture made it to be. You will learn about science, ego, pride and, ultimately, what it means to be human. William Shakespeare's Hamlet Every man should read Shakespeare during his lifetime. Hamlet is a great place to start. You know the line: be or not be, but do you know the context and the real meaning behind it? Doubtful. The Rock notes an intro to the story: Prince Hamlet is summoned home from school to attend his father's funeral, and is shocked to learn that his mother has already married. The queen's wife Hamlet's uncle Claudius, his Brother. Worse still, Claudius is crowned king, despite the fact that Hamlet was to be the heir to the throne. Hamlet suspects foul play. Cue dramatic music. The tale of the two cities of Charles Dickens Dickens should be a part of reading everyone's life, and The Tale of Two Cities is a good starter. It is set in London and Paris during the French Revolution and depicts the plight of French peasantry, their turn towards violence against the aristocrats who marginalized them, and parallels with London society in the same period. Richard Yates's Revolutionary Road is the story of marriage. Wheelers appeared to be a model suburban couple in the 1950s. But did they get married too young? And it's too early to get over the family? Frank's work is boring, and April never saw herself as a housewife. Beneath a calm surface, both of these self-absorbed partners struggle with desires to escape and become their true self, and cannot find happiness in their ordinary lives as they are. Something has to give. The Divine Comedy of Dante Aligieri This epic 14th century poem by Dante Aligieri offers to immerse himself in his special vision of the afterlife. Dante travels through Hell, Purgatory and Paradise (or Heaven) and gives an idea of what he sees. Allegorically, it also serves to represent a person's path to God and the various stages he takes in this journey. This work should be read if for nothing more than cultural literacy to know where many of our modern conceptions of paradise and hell arise. The Boys of Summer by Roger Kahn What is the library of a man without literature about America's favorite pastime? Named Best American Book of Sports, The Boys of The Summer is the brooklyn Dodgers' account leading up to their 1955 World Series title. Kahn's portrayal of some of the game's greatest legends like Gil Hodges and Duke Snyder inspires enough to make a man hope for another shot at Diamond and team up with a local softball crew. Don't tell me we didn't warn you. Separate World's John Knowles Set in a Boys' Training School on the eve of World War II, Separate World Centers on friendships of Phineas and Jean. Phineas's seeming perfection creates jealousy in Gene, leading to a tragedy that will forever change both their lives. A piercing look at both light and the shadows of friendship and humanity. Every boy would like him to be Finney, but knows he looks more like Gina. This book will stick with you regardless of your age. Stranger Albert Camus is arguably the most popular part of 20th century existential literature. Frenchman Merco attends the funeral of his mother, and through a series of events, becomes embroiled in a senseless murder. The stranger turns to murder and remorse (or lack thereof), God and atheism, fate and justice, the absurdity of life. You're going to get away with it. much more than just plot points. Robinson Crusoe Daniel Defoe Robinson Crusoe is an autobiography of the outcasts who spent 30 years on a remote tropical island. It faces difficult terrain, less-than-friendly natives, and many other obstacles. It was described and written so realistically - the name Robinson Crusoe even was quoted as an author - that many people thought it was a real event, not a novel out of Daniel Defoe's mind. Nearly 300 years later, he still holds. 7 Habits of highly successful people Stephen Coomey This book has been a bestseller for almost three decades, and for good reason. This not only explains the importance of living your life with purpose, but also provides tools to help you actually do it. The methods of planning and setting goals, outlined in Koie's most famous work, were used by countless world leaders, businessmen and influential people, as well as millions of ordinary people whose lives changed by the implementation of 7 habits. Include the Art of Masculinity team among them. Don't forget to listen to my podcast with Stephen's son. Cannery Row John Steinbeck No matter his class or situation in life, a person needs a healthy appreciation for ordinary people who help make the world walk. John Steinbeck's Cannery Row depicts a cross-section of this community, located on a strip of sardine canneries, in the late Depression era. This area has its own life, and is as much a character book as any member of the community itself. The novel not only paints a picture of the difficult time that has passed, but gives an honest, eternal view of the human condition. Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island Almost everything we think about when we think of pirates comes not from the pages of history, but from this book: treasure maps with X markings of the place, desert islands, peg legs, parrots, and more. Published as a children's tale (and quite grown-up), The American writer Henry James praised it as perfect as a well-played boy. Confederate Dunces John F. Kennedy Toole This New Orleans-based novel won author John F. Kennedy's Toole Pulitzer Prize. His perfect comedy of errors centers around the character of Ignatius J. Reilly, a lazy and socially ignorant but very intelligent man who still lives with his mother at the age of 30. The Confederacy of Dunces serves as a guide to what a person should not be, while providing sound entertainment all the time. Richard Wright's native son This novel tells the story of 20-year-old Big Thomas, a young African-American living in utter poverty in southern Chicago in the 1930s. He inevitably (as claimed in the novel) goes to prison for a crime he actually commits. Was it his character that drove him to him, though, it was a society by him in a certain social stratum? Race, identity, social status, society pressure - this novel offers an important reading on the black experience. Paul Theroux's Grand Rail Bazaar In this journey, Paul Theroux talks about his four-month journey through Europe, the Middle East, India and Southeast Asia on the continent's legendary trains: the Orient Express, the Golden Arrow in Kuala Lumpur, the Mandalay Express and the Trans-Siberian Express. His well-documented and entertaining adventures have come to be considered classics in the genre of tourist literature. This magazine satisfies the vicar and inspires an enterprising person. The last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper The last of the Mohicans was the second book in Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales of Pentalogy and set in 1757 during the French and Indian Wars. The French were particularly dependent on Native Americans for help in the fight. Primarily in the New York desert, the colonel's two daughters, Alice and Cora, must be taken to safety. Among the caravans guarding the women is a group of border guards and Indians, including Chingachgouk (the last Moicana leader) and Uncas. The characteristics of these heroes would become a solid part of the archetypes of border guards and Indians, who remain in the people's consciousness today. Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck One of the great American novels, Grapes of Wrath takes place in the Dust Bowl of the Midwest era. Forced to move, the Joad family travels west with thousands of others down-on-their-luck Okies to try to find a better life for themselves in California. There is perhaps no better shot of this period of American history than Steinbeck's masterpiece. Also, the final scene is one that will stick with you for a long time to come. Education Wandering Man Louis L'Amour Western writer Louis L'Amour was one of the most prolific authors of all time, cranking out more than 100 published works (all of which were still in print when he died in 1988). The Education of the Wandering Man is his autobiography, which can also be called a love letter to learning. He left school at the age of 15 to roam the world. His various experiences include: a tramp on the railways, a Texas cattle skinner, a sailor in Singapore and the West Indies, an errant naked-punched boxer, and more. Through it all, he learned to read and write, and was never far from a book. Inspiring as things come out, the example of L'Amour will have you ask what on earth you are doing with all your free time. Les Miserables Victor Hugo One of the great musicals of all time, Les Miserables was the first great novel. Ex-prisoner Jean Valjean tries to remake himself after getting out of prison, and seeks revenge on the forces that put him there in the first place. Through the big composition of commemorative memorabilia and the French Revolution in the background, author Victor Hugo takes us to the rental epic, which will likely leave you exhausted - but hopeful - by the time you finish. Man's Search for Meaning Victor Frankl Victor Frankl was a psychotherapist and neurosurgeon who specialized in the treatment of depression, but, being a Jew in Nazi Germany, was sent to Auschwitz. Upon entering the concentration camp, they took the last of his belongings, including his clothes, his wedding ring and the manuscript of the book he was writing. Relying on his rich inner life and helping other prisoners, along with some strokes of luck, he lived to tell his story, which is a lesson about the control you need to do a bad situation not necessarily good, but survivable. It is sure to put your own suffering in perspective and inspire you to live with a greater purpose. Outsiders by S.E. Hinton published when author S. E. Hinton was just 18 years old, Outsiders is the story of two rival gangs - greasers and Socs - who are divided by their socioeconomic status. It's a classic coming-of-age tale, and create a foundation for the young adult genre as we know it today. While the characters of the story are just teenagers, there's a lot to be taken from it about family, honor, sacrifice, and class dynamics. One hundred years of solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez is often called a masterpiece of Spanish literature, One Hundred Years of Solitude is an epic family story that tells the story of the fall, birth and death of the city of Macondo. Marquez introduces us to seven generations of Buendia, whose patriarch founded the city. The family is unable to escape their regular misfortunes, however. Is history sure to repeat itself, or will Buendia be free from his family's history? The Gate of Fire by Stephen Pressfield is a fictional story about the Spartan 300 and the Battle of Thermopil, in which several thousand Greek men confronted at least 100,000 Persians. In the Gates of Fire we see a battle through the eyes of a warrior named Keones. We learn about spartan life, training, discipline, combat strategy, courage... and much, much more. Reading it will fill you with courageous thumos. Paradise Lost by John Milton Paradise Lost is an epic poem that tells the biblical story of the Fall of Man in verse: the temptation of Adam and Eve, the role of Satan and their exile from the Garden of Eden. Instead of just telling that in the Bible though, author John Milton explores and imagines a possible backstory. What happens behind the scenes in the heavenly realm as Adam and Eve reacted to their sin, what did they feel after they were forbidden to go to the garden? From heaven? Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury Author Ray Bradbury brings readers to a bleak future in which books are banned and firefighters are accused of destruction they do. Firefighter Guy Montag - our main character, and every day he is tasked to set fire to printed literature. Eventually, he returns to his home and family, where TV is central to their soft existence. Back in the 1950s Bradbury was concerned about how television and other media would relate to books and literature. Relevant yet? I bet it's your bottom. Oil! According to Upton Sinclair Upton Sinclair's 1920s novel The Oil Industry should be read, if for no other reason than it inspired one of the greatest films of this century, There Will Be Blood. The book is told through the eyes of Bunny, the son of an oil tycoon. His sympathies for oil workers and socialist leanings create many disagreements with the dear old pope. What Sinclair in the jungle did for the meat industry, this book did for oil. The fear and trembling of Kyerkegaard's soren, the Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, sets an example from the famous biblical story of Abraham, commanded by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. He uses this story as an opportunity to question the attitude of philosophy to religion, along with the nature of God, the relationship of faith with ethics and morality, and the difficulty of being truly religious. It asks big questions that everyone should struggle with throughout life. Waller Newell's Code of Man What does it mean to be human, not only biologically but also philosophically? Waller Newell lays out one of the most compelling answers to the question of how a person should live in this book. He argues that many modern people have lost touch with the values and virtues that have defined masculinity for thousands of years, and therefore feel lost, confused and evil. Newell believes that the path to recovery has passed on five paths to masculinity: love, courage, pride, family and country. Using Western writers and thinkers such as Aristotle and Hemingway, Newell offers important recommendations on the way to achieving a personal heart. Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad. Joseph Conrad's story is the story of a man named Marlowe, traveling up the Congo River in the heart of Africa. Telling this story, Conrad compares the savages of Africa with the so-called civilized people of London. Is there really a big difference? The themes of race, barbarism, colonialism and the first world society are central. Mark Aurelius's meditations by Ryan Holiday's description of Meditation in his list of 36 books every young and ambitious person should read cannot be improved: I would call it the greatest book ever written. This is the final text about self-discipline, personal ethics, humility, self-fulfillment and power. Bill Clinton reads it every year, and so there are countless other state leaders This is a book written by one of the most influential people who have ever lived in lessons, who teach us power, responsibility and philosophy. This book will make you a better person and better manage the success you desire. The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings JR R.R. Tolkien These four books make the list as one because they really are one, epic story. You've certainly seen movies that are great, but the books are even better. Follow Frodo Baggins and his trusted friend Samvaise Gamji and learn about friendship, loyalty, devotion to goodness, and many other courageous virtues. You will also find one of the wisest characters in literature in Gandalf. J.R.R. Tolkien had one of the greatest fantasies in the history of literature and created the entire universe, complete with new languages, maps of various lands, and even stories of how these lands came to be. No other author has come close to Tolkien's global capabilities, which in itself makes the series worth reading. With the old breed of Eugenie Sani you may think you understand the gritty nature of the Pacific War, but as long as you read with the old breed, you can't fully understand its full horrors. With rich and intrusive prose, Sani takes you straight to the battles of Peleliu and Okinawa and allows you to experience the sights, sounds and smells of nightmarish scenes on a very visceral level. This is by far one of the best books about the war period, and a must-read for every American who wants to fully understand the sacrifices their ancestors made for them. Self-control: His King and Majesty William George Jordan At the turn of the 20th century was the golden age of personal development books. Unlike today's self-help books, which are filled with flattering, empty, cliché platitudes, they are direct, masterfully written, and full of deep and complex ideas that center on the development of good character. Even in this golden age, one author stands supreme: William George Jordan. His Self-Control: His King and Majesty has been the source of many of our most popular manvotionals, and is full of beautifully written wisdom on independence, serenity, gratitude, and more. Be sure to listen to our podcast with Jim Mustich about the 1000 books he thinks you should read before you die: Click here to download a list of 100 books everyone should read. Tags: book lists art of manliness 100 books pdf

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