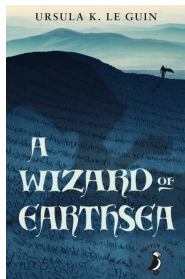


# Another World



## ***A Wizard of Earthsea*** by Ursula Le Guin

The first in a series of six books set in the land of Earthsea. Powerful wizards learn to control the world around them by learning the true names of things. Young Ged has immense, raw power, but he learns through the course of this story about the effects of wielding that power. In his pride and impatience, he attempts a spell beyond his ability, and unleashes a terrible shadow.

Difficulty level: Medium

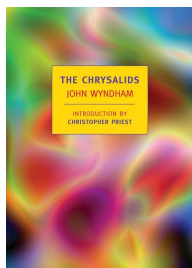
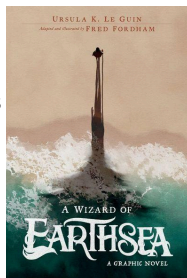
Cost: \$8.99 on [Amazon](#)

## ***A Wizard of Earthsea: Graphic Novel*** by Ursula Le Guin

See the synopsis above! If you're interested in this plot, but you prefer a graphic novel format, check out this version, illustrated by Fred Fordham.

Difficulty level: Low

Cost: \$21.59 on [Amazon](#)



## ***The Chrysalids*** by John Wyndham

This dystopian novel is set in a future that appears to be postapocalyptic. The people of this world regularly encounter mutations in crops, animals, and human beings. Wherever this mutation occurs, it is labelled "blasphemy" and destroyed. The protagonist, David, is a young boy who has a hidden mutation: he can speak to others who have the same gift by using his mind. He successfully hides this gift for years, until his sister is born with a powerful version of the same mutation.

Difficulty level: High

Cost: \$13.72 on [Amazon](#)

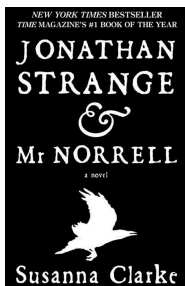
## ***Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*** by

Susanna Clarke

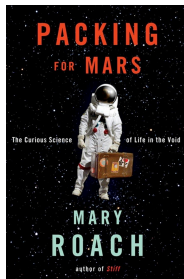
This is one of my absolute favorite books of all time. If you enjoyed *Harry Potter*, but you're ready for something more grown up, give this book a try. The story is about England, in a version of time where magic once existed but has gradually died out. Two men become unlikely partners; one is a young, naturally gifted practical magician, while the other is an old, miserly, educated scholar of magic.

Difficulty level: High (because of length)

Cost: \$9.66 on [Amazon](#)



# Nonfiction



## ***Packing for Mars*** by Mary Roach

Mary Roach makes learning fun and funny. You will learn a ton about the history of our space program and what it will take for us to send astronauts to Mars. This includes how you poop in space, what happens if you vomit in your helmet, and what happens to your body if you don't walk for a year.

Difficulty level: Medium/High

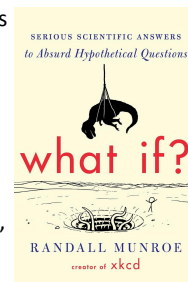
Cost: \$15.76 on [Amazon](#)

## ***what if?*** by Randall Munroe

Munroe is a cartoonist and physicist who uses comics and humor to teach real lessons about how our world works. He tackles reader-submitted questions, like what if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent the speed of light? How fast can you hit a speed bump while driving and live? You can skip around this book as much as you want, read it for 5 minutes or 5 hours, and learn something every time.

Difficulty level: Low/Medium

Cost: \$15.94 on [Amazon](#)

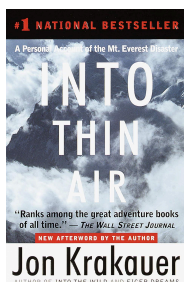


## ***Into Thin Air*** by Jon Krakauer

This story is riveting and tragic. Journalist Krakauer happened to be along on an Everest hike that turned tragic, resulting in the deaths of five climbers in a storm near the peak. Krakauer's writing is so vivid that I felt cold reading the story. Be patient at the beginning, and you will find yourself engrossed by the middle.

Difficulty level: High

Cost: \$8.24 on [Amazon](#)

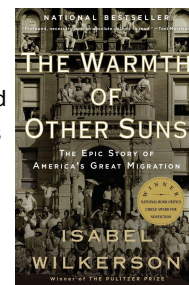


## ***The Warmth of Other Suns*** by Isabel Wilkerson

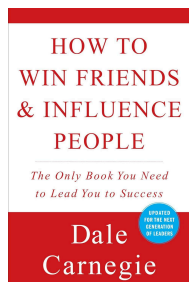
In the 20th century, six million Black people moved from South to North in a historical event known as the Great Migration. This book helps bring that movement to life by closely following Ida Mae Gladney, a sharecropper's wife; railroad man George Starling; and surgeon Robert Foster from the beginning of their lives through the migration and settlement. This book is a masterpiece of historical work, particularly with the lens of following a single story (or three) as a way of deeply understanding how and why things happen in our history.

Difficulty level: Very high

Cost: \$10.63 on [Amazon](#)



# Self-Improvement



## ***How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie**

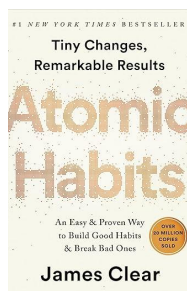
This is absolutely the most *useful* book I've ever read. I think about this book almost every time I write an email. You will learn about human psychology and how to communicate with others by considering what they want, with strategies that will work with your peers and adults.

Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$9.99 on [Amazon](#)

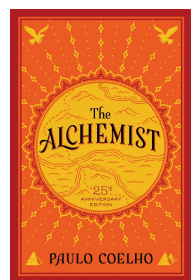
## ***Atomic Habits* by James Clear**

This popular book can teach you how to form new habits through tiny changes. Truthfully, this isn't one of *my* favorite books, but I include it because I've had students read it and find it helpful! Summer is a perfect time to slow down and reflect about the person you are, the goals you have for yourself, and the changes you might need to make to reach them.



Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$13.10 on [Amazon](#)



## ***The Alchemist* by Pablo Coelho**

Many of your classmates have already ready this book; it was a popular choice this year! This is a book beloved by young people and adults alike.

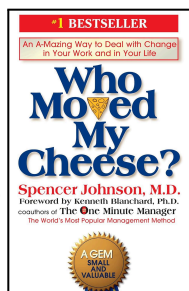
It's a fictional story, a simple parable, but it guides you on a mental journey for reflecting on your goals and dreams. In many ways, this book is a light, easy read, but it may leave you thinking some deep thoughts.

Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$10.19 on [Amazon](#)

## ***Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson, MD**

This book is light and easy to read, with short chapters and illustrations. Using the metaphor of a mouse searching for cheese in a maze, Johnson teaches a few lessons about how to respond well to change, something none of us can avoid. If you'd like to learn how to pivot a little better when life is unexpected, give this book a try.



Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$11.99 on [Amazon](#)

# Start a Series



## ***Alanna: The First Adventure* by Tamora Pierce**

A young girl named Alanna receives her invitation to a school of magic, but she does not want to become a scholar. She proposes a daring swap with her twin brother, Thom, who has received a similar invitation to train as a knight. The twins successfully swap places and begin their new lives following their true passions.

Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$12.08 on [Amazon](#) or check out the \$17.99 [graphic novel](#)

## ***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds**

Here's another entry on the list that I'm including because students love it! The protagonist, Ghost, has talent on the track, but he has some heavy baggage from his past weighing him down. Be aware that there is a disturbing flashback where his father threatens him and his mother with domestic violence. If you enjoy this book, there are three more books in the series featuring the other runners on the track team.



Difficulty level: Low

Cost: \$6.39 on [Amazon](#)

## ***Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo**

I was excited to find a new YA series set in a fictional world—a world perhaps more compelling than the characters themselves. The country, Ravka, is cut in half by the Shadow Fold, an area of darkness that is dangerous to cross. The protagonist, Alina Starkov, trains as a soldier and a sorceress to combat an evil she still can't fully recognize. This is a fun series, and it is followed by the *Six of Crows* series for even more literary bingeing!

Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$7.10 on [Amazon](#)



## ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis**

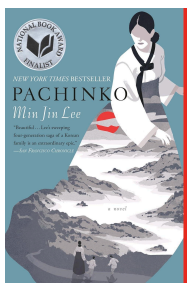
I particularly love *The Horse and His Boy* and *The Silver Chair*, but this series is a rewarding journey from start to finish. Note that the series is a Christian allegory (which I think you can take or leave as you read it), and the last book (*The Last Battle*), is not culturally nuanced in its depiction of non-Christian religions and cultures. Dip in and out of this series as you please, as the events of one book do not necessarily rely on another.



Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$5.59 on [Amazon](#)

# Literary Classics



## ***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee**

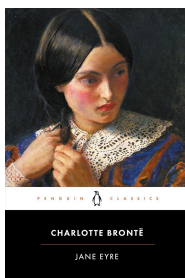
This epic is stunning and powerful. I learned a ton about Japan and Korea, but I barely noticed I was absorbing so much, as I was wrapped up in the compelling stories of the sympathetic and interesting characters. This novel will take you on a difficult but rewarding journey as you follow generations of a family moving from one country to another.

Difficulty level: Very high

Cost: \$11.28 on [Amazon](#)

## ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë**

Buckle up, because this literary romance is absolutely bonkers. Jane Eyre is a plain young lady who does her work carefully. After being raised as an orphan, Jane becomes a governess for the mysterious Mr. Rochester, who is hiding a dramatic secret. The protagonist is relatable, while the series of events she experiences gradually moves from relatable to fantastical. This is the sort of novel that “everyone” has read in college, so you can get a little headstart.



Difficulty level: Medium/High

Cost: \$5.60 on [Amazon](#)

## ***Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

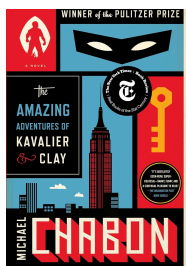
I pick up my Sherlock Holmes stories every year. Sherlock Holmes is a compelling character, and these mysteries unfold with logic and humor. Most of his cases are only a few pages long. You can find them online for free! Try a few pages featuring the famous fictional detective, and keep reading if you enjoy them. Warning: a few stories feature offensive, racist descriptions of characters, particularly related to colonialism in India.

Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$4.89 on [Amazon](#)

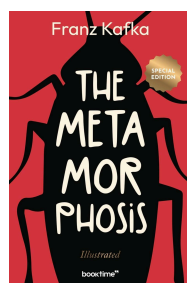
## ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon**

I'd recommend this book only for the most seasoned and hearty readers among you. It is long. I find Chabon's writing beautiful and restful. The narrative in this epic story is winding, blending fiction and creation. It follows two boys, cousins who dream of writing comic books. They invent a new hero, The Escapist, who embodies parts of who they are and parts of who they wish they were.



Difficulty level: High

Cost: \$17.87 on [Amazon](#)



## ***The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka**

This weird little novel is about a man who wakes to find he has been transformed into an insect. Since its publication in 1915, we've been arguing about what, exactly, it means. I love a little absurdity mixed with hard truth, so this story is a favorite of mine. It might not hit as hard for those who have yet to join the crush of working society, but it has truths to share with anyone who feels pushed aside in society.

Difficulty level: Medium/High

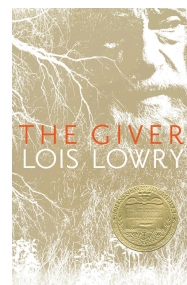
Cost: \$12.39 on [Amazon](#)

## ***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

If somehow you have not yet read Lowry's classic book, *The Giver*, you are in for a treat. One man is charged with holding the memories of the entire group. As the Giver ages, he prepares to pass on this responsibility to a young boy named Jonas. Jonas is shocked by the pain that the Giver carries, but he is also warmed by the joy, nostalgia, and love. He starts to question the society he was raised in.

Difficulty level: Low

Cost: \$7.00 on [Amazon](#)

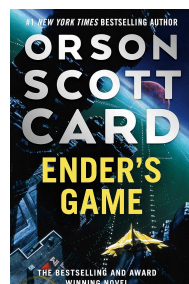


## ***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card**

To protect against the next wave of alien attack, the government is cultivating child geniuses to use as soldiers and generals. Ender Wiggin is drafted into Battle School at a young age, and he quickly becomes a leader among the other children. His youth and innocence are gradually sacrificed as he learns strategy, including cruelty, in the name of a larger cause. I revisit this book often and recommend it regularly. It is beautifully written. There are more installments after this one in the Ender Saga, but none of the have gripped me like this one.

Difficulty level: Medium

Cost: \$7.99 on [Amazon](#)



## ***The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

There is something about the narration in this book that is extraordinarily calming. The story is about a butler named Stevens who reminisces on his years of service and tries to find meaning in the moments in his life. If you can slow down your pace enough to follow this meticulous, dedicated character, you will find yourself moved by him.

Difficulty level: Medium/High

Cost: \$9.69 on [Amazon](#)

