**Write your name by the novel you wish to read. Only two people can sign up for the same book.**

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| **Novel Information** | **Student Name** |
| **Allende, Isabel. *House of Spirits.***  A saga of the Truebas family throughout the years of the political unrest of Chile. Conflicts of passion and politics abound.  *Barrabas came to us by sea, the child Clara wrote in her delicate calligraphy. She was already in the habit of writing down important matters, and afterward, when she was mute, she also recorded trivialities, never suspecting that fifty years later I would use her notebooks to reclaim the past and overcome terrors of my own.* |  |
| **Allende, Isabel. *Daughter of Fortune.***  A clash of cultures and forbidden love abounds in the tale set in the 1800s. An abandoned girl sets about to seek her fortune.  *Everyone is born with some special talent, and Eliza Sommers discovered early on that she had two: a good sense of smell and a good memory. She used the first to earn a living and the second to recall her life—if not in precise detail, at least with an astrologer’s poetic vagueness.* |  |
| **Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid’s Tale.***  In a society where women are only seen as expendable reproducers, how will this handmaid survive?  *We slept in what had once been the gymnasium. The floor was of varnished wood, with stripes and circles painted on it, for the games that were formerly played there; the hoops for the basketball nets were still in place, though the nets were gone.* |  |
| **Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre.***  A young orphan girl becomes the tutor for a child at Thornfield and falls in love with Mr. Rochester, the proprietor. But what are those sounds coming from the attic?  *There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought it with clouds so somber, and rain so penetrating, that further out-door exercise was now out of the question.* |  |
| **Brooks, Geraldine. *A Year of Wonders***  A story of a woman’s fight for survival during a year of the 17th Century plague.  *I used to love this season. The wood stacked by the door, the tang of its sap still speaking to the forest. The hay made all golden in the low afternoon light. The rumble of the apples…* |  |
| **Brooks, Geraldine. *March***  Mr. March’s, a character taken from Little Women, account of his time away from his family during the Civil War.  *This is what I write to her. “The clouds tonight embossed the sky. A dipping sun gilded and brazed each raveling edge as if firmament were threaded through with precious filaments.”* |  |
| **Camus, Albert. *The Stranger.***  A young Algerian kills a man. His arrest and imprisonment challenge the reader’s own opinions of God, government, and man.  *Mother died today. Or, maybe, yesterday; I can’t be sure. The telegram from the Home says: “Your mother passed away. Funeral tomorrow. Deep sympathy.” Which leaves the matter doubtful; it could have been yesterday.* |  |
| **DeLillo, Don. *White Noise.***  A bleak and ironic vision of our world, the novel centers on a Hitler Studies professor who is poisoned by a noxious cloud.  *The station wagons arrived at noon, a long shining line that coursed through the west campus. In single file they eased around the orange I-beam sculpture and moved toward the dormitories. The roofs of the station wagons were loaded down with carefully secured suitcases full of light and heavy clothing; with boxes of blankets, boots and shoes, stationary and books, sheets, pillows, quilts…* |  |
| **Erdrich, Louise. Love Medicine.**  June Kashpaw freezes to death. The following is a story from multiple family members touched by her death. It is the story of Native Americans, diminished dreams, family bonds, and America.  *The morning before Easter Sunday, June Kashpaw was walking down the clogged main street of oil boomtown Williston, North Dakota, killing time before the noon bus arrived that would take her home. She was a long-legged Chippewa woman, aged hard in every way except how she moved.* |  |
| **Eugenides, Jeffery. *Middlesex.***  A saga centering on a hermaphrodite, Cal/Callie. The story travels from Greece to America and uncovers a family’s secret.  *I was born twice: first as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974.* |  |
| **Eugenides, Jeffery. *The Virgin Suicides.***  The story of the mysterious Lisbon daughters who kill themselves as told by one of the neighborhood boys who secretly loved them.  *On the morning the last Lisbon daughter took her turn at suicide---it was Mary this time, and sleeping pills like Therese—the two paramedics arrived at the house knowing exactly where the knife drawer was, and the gas oven, and the beam in the basement from which it was possible to tie a rope.* |  |
| **Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms.***  A wounded ambulance driver recuperates with the help of a English nurse. The tenuous nature of love during war is the central theme of this classic novel.  *In the late summer of that year we lived in a house in a village that*  *looked across the river and the plain to the mountains.* |  |
| **Hemingway, Ernest. *The Sun Also Rises.***  The story of a group of friends questioning their existence in the streets of Europe. The protagonist, who lost his manhood in the war, revels in his failed love to the wild Brett.  *Robert Cohn was once middleweight boxing champion of Princeton. Do not think that I am very much impressed by that as a boxing title, but it meant a lot to Cohn. He cared nothing for boxing, in fact he disliked it, but he learned painfully and thoroughly to counteract the feeling of inferiority and shyness he had felt on being treated as a Jew at Princeton.* |  |
| **Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns.***  The story of coming of age, a loss of innocence, and the state of the Afghan woman. This book follows the heartbreak and hardships of Miriam and Laila, as they grow.  *Miriam was five years old the first time she heard the word harami. //It happened on a Thursday. It must have been because Miriam remembered that she had been restless and preoccupied that day, the way she was only on Thursdays, the day when Jalil visited her at the kolba.* |  |
| **Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner.***  A story of a young boy in Afghanistan growing up and having to redeem himself after betraying his best friend. A story of war, loyalty, and social class.  *I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into an alley near the frozen creek.* |  |
| **Huxley, Aldous. *A Brave New World.***  A dystopian tale in the vein of 1984 where babies are born in tubes and people are regulated.  *A squat grey building of only thirty-four stories. Over the main entrance the words, Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, and, in a shield, the World State’s motto, Community, Identity, Stability.* |  |
| **Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen Meany.***  Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom.  *I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice—not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother’s death, but because he was the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany.* |  |
| **Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go.***  The students of Halisham are so special that they are shunned from society. Only from indirect remarks do they learn who and what they are.  *My name is Kathy H. I’m thirty-one years old, and I’ve been a carer now for over eleven years. That sounds long enough, I know, but actually they want me to go on for another eight months, until the end of this year.* |  |
| **Jin, Ha. *Waiting.***  The story of a man waiting for his arranged bride to agree to a divorce so that he can marry his true love, this novel echoes the unrest of China.  *Every summer Lin Kong returned to Goose Village to divorce his wife, Shuyu. Together they had appeared at the courthouse in Wujia Town many times, but she had always changed her mind at the last moment when the judge asked if she accept a divorce.* |  |
| **Kafka, Franz*. The Metamorphosis*.**  Exhausted from supporting his family, Gregor wakes up one morning as a bug.  *One morning, as Gregor Samsa was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that in the bed he had been changed into a monsterous bug.* |  |
| **Kingsolver, Barbara. *Poisonwood Bible***  An evangelical preacher brings his family to the Congo in the 1050s. In his quest to convert the tribe to Christianity, he also tears the lives of his family apart.  *Imagine a ruin so strange it must never have happened.//First, picture the forest. I want you to be its conscience, the eyes in the trees. The trees are columns of slick, brindled bark like muscular animals overgrown beyond all reason.* |  |
| **Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird.***  The story of growing up in a racially biased south. The story of growing up to learn the truths of human nature and society.  *When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow. When it healed, and Jem’s fears of never being able to play football were assuaged, he was seldom self-conscious about his injury.* |  |
| **Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. Love in the Time of Cholera.**  A story about love in all forms. A man waits fifty-one years to declare his love for a woman who once rejected him. But will she love him now?  *It was inevitable: the scent of bitter almonds always reminded him of the fate of unrequited love. Dr. Juvenal Urbino noticed it as soon as he entered the still darkened house where he had hurried on an urgent call to attend a case that for him had lost all urgency many years before.* |  |
| **Martel, Yan. *The Life of Pi.***  After a shipwreck, Pi finds himself asea with a wounded zebra, a hyena, a tiger, and an orangutan. In a stunning allegory, Pi tells of his survival.  *My suffering left me sad and gloomy. //Academic study and the steady, mindful practice of religion slowly brought me back to life. I have kept up what some people may consider my strange religious practices.* |  |
| **McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes.***  A true account of growing up in base poverty with an alcoholic father in the Catholic-soaked region of Ireland. A funny, redeeming book.  *My father and mother should have stayed in New York where they met and married and where I was born. Instead, they returned to Ireland when I was four, my brother, Malachy, three, the twins, Oliver and Eugene, barely one, and my sister, Margaret, dead and gone. //When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I survived at all.* |  |
| **McCullers, Carson. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter.***  Everyone wishes to escape their small-town life. In the midst of a tight-knit community lies lonliness so real and palpable it can only be told to the town’s deaf-mute.  *In the town there were two mutes, and they were always together. Early every morning they would come out from the house where they lived and walk arm in arm down the street to work. The two friends were very different.* |  |
| **McEwan, Ian. *Atonement.***  A moving tale told from the perspectives of two sisters—one who has committed an unforgivable betrayal. Will this act ever be forgiven? Will the lovers unite?  *The play—for which Briony had designed the posters, programs and tickets, constructed the sales booth out of folding screen tipped on its side, and lined the collection box in red crepe paper—was written in her two day tempest of composition, causing her to miss breakfast and lunch.* |  |
| **Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone with the Wind***  You already know the story.  *Scarlet O’Hara was not beautiful, but men seldom realized it when caught by her charm as the Tarleton twins were. In her face were too sharply blended the delicate features of her mother, a Coast aristocrat of French decent, and the heavy ones of her florid Irish father.* |  |
| **Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye***  Pecola is an abused young woman who longs to be the girl with the blue eyes…as long as they will take her pain away.  *Here is the house it is green and white it has a red door it is very pretty here is the family mother father dick and jane live in the green-and white house they are happy see jane she has a red dress she wants to play who will play with her see the cat it goes meow-meow come and play come play with jane.* |  |
| **Morrison, Toni. *Beloved.***  A spirit troubles the house of a post-Civil War family. Who is the ghost?  *124 was spiteful. Full of baby’s venom. The women in the house knew it and so did the children. For years each put up with the spite in his own way, but by 1873 Sethe and her daughter Denver were its only victims.* |  |
| **Nabakov, Vladmir. *Lolita.***  A man is seduced by a twelve-year-old girl and travels the country with her while trying to elude the authorities.  *Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul. Lo-lee-ta: the tip of my tongue taking a trip of three steps down to the palate to tap, at three, on the teeth. Lo. Lee. Ta.* |  |
| **O’Brien, Tim. *Going after Cacciato.***  A novel about war, courage, and fear. As Paul Berlin and his squad search for an AWOL member (Cacciato), he ruminates on his experiences in vivid and feverish manner.  *It was a bad time. Billy Boy Watkins was dead, and so was Frenchie Tucker. Billy Boy had died of fright, scared to death on the field of battle, and Frenchie Tucker had been shot through the nose.* |  |
| **Plath, Sylvia. *The Bell Jar.***  Esther is a talented and smart young woman interning at a magazine in New York. She is also on the edge. This is the story of her breakdown.  *It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn’t know what I was doing in New York. I’m stupid about executions. The idea of being electrocuted makes me sick, and that’s all there was to read about in the papers…* |  |
| **Shelly, Mary. *Frankenstein.***  The classic tale of the creation of the monster within the man. A gothic tale of the mind’s creations.  *You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil foreboding. I arrived here yesterday; and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare, and increasing confidence in the success of my undertaking.* |  |
| **Steinbeck, John. *East of Eden.***  This novel is a recreation of the Cain and Abel story that spans from after the Civil War to before World War I. The story of familial betrayal and bitter jealousy.  *The Salinas Valley is in Northern California. It is a long narrow swale between two ranges of mountains, and the Salinas River winds and twists up the river until it falls at last into Monterey Bay.* |  |
| **Stoker, Bram. *Dracula.***  The classic tale of evil. The vampire that stalks his prey and enlists others in his task.  *Left Munich at 8:35pm, on 1st May, arriving at Vienna early next morning; should have arrived at 6:46, but the train was an hour late. Buda-Pesth seems a wonderful place, from the glimpse I got of it from the train and the little I could walk through the streets.* |  |
| **Styron, William. *Sophie’s Choice.***  A heartbreaking choice changes the life of a German-born American. She recounts her struggle as she adapts to life in America.  *In those days cheap apartments were almost impossible to find in Manhattan, so I had to move to Brooklyn. That was in 1947, and one of the pleasant features of that summer which I so vividly remember was the weather, which was sunny and mild, flower fragrant, almost as if the days had been arrested.* |  |
| **Tan, Amy. *The Bonesetter’s Daughter.***  A daughter reads her aging mother’s diaries, which chronicle the family secrets. Surprising twists and honest portrayals of human relationships frame the story.  *For the past eight years, always starting on August twelfth, Ruth Young lost her voice. //The first time it happened was when she moved into Art’s flat in San Francisco. For several days, Ruth could only hiss like an untended teakettle.* |  |
| **Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club***  A story of the hardships of being a woman, being a mother, and being a daughter. The narrative weaves between incidents in China and incidents in America.  *My mother started the San Francisco version of the Joy Luck Club in 1949, two years before I was born. This was the year that my mother and father left China with one stiff leather trunk filled only with fancy silk dresses. There was no time to pack anything else, my mother had explained to my father after they boarded the boat.* |  |
| **Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina.***  The story of a tragic heroine struggling against the expectations of society and her family. Set in Russia, our protagonist defies the standards set forth and forges her own tragic path.  *All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. //All was confusion in the Oblanskys’ house. The wife had found out that the husband was having an affair with the former French governess, and had announced to the husband that she could not live in the same house with him.* |  |
| **Toole, John Kennedy. *A Confederacy of Dunces.***  A medievalist lumbers in search of a job and spews his views on the world in this hilarious tale after he is almost arrested and his crazy mother is pulled for a DUI.  *A green hunting cap squeezed the top of the fleshy balloon of a head. The green earflaps, full of large ears and uncut hair and the bristles that grew in the ears themselves, stuck out like turn signals indicating two directions at once.* |  |
| **Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple.***  The story of Celie and her struggles to overcome a life of being beaten down and used by men.  *I am fourteen years old. I have always been a good girl. Maybe you could give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me. //Last spring after little Lucious come I heard them fussing. He was pulling on her arm. She say It too soon, Fonso, I ain’t well. Finally he leave her alone.* |  |
| **Wharton, Edith. Ethan Frome.**  A man is bound by duty to his sickly wife, although he is in love with her younger cousin. Will he ever break free and be able to truly love?  *The village lay under two feet of snow, with drifts at the windy corners. In a sky of iron the points of the Dipper hung like icicles and Orion flashed his cold fires.* |  |